Military says Pentagon, MILF kidnapped priest

STORY ON PAGE A3

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2001 ★★ 56 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 325 P15

Fake $100-B bonds seized

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Police searching for bombs seized suspected counterfeit US government bonds with a face value of more than $100 billion from two men, police said Tuesday.

The bonds were found late Monday in the bags of Jake Lundahay, 44, and Bartolome Madridano, 38, at a bus station here while police were conducting an inspection, said police Senior Insp. Juan Macapas.

The two men said they were on a "mission" to capture the alleged leader of a kidnap gang that abducted Rev. Giuseppe Pierantoni two weeks ago. The police did not file any charges against the two men, who were released yesterday. *AP*

US warns of new attacks this week

WASHINGTON—For the second time this month, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) warned Americans that Osama bin Laden's terrorist network could strike US targets at home or abroad, possibly this week.

The FBI warning came as anger mounted over the big number of Afghan civilians killed by US bombs, putting American allies in some Muslim countries on edge and eroding public support for the blitz.

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers mocked the four-week-old US raids as a failure, and the United States responded with a fierce bombardment of Kabul, Kandahar and the Afghan regime's frontlines on Tuesday.

US Attorney General John Ashcroft's warning of new terrorist attacks as well as the spread of anthrax bacteria sent by an unknown force through the post further jangled nerves in America on Halloween eve.

"The administration has concluded, based on information developed, that there may be additional terrorist attacks within the United States and against US interests over the next week," Ashcroft told reporters.

Without giving details, Ashcroft said the FBI information was credible. Stories circulating on the Internet warned of possible attacks on Halloween, but authorities dismissed the reports.

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the latest threat was "most likely" linked to Bin Laden's al-Qaida network of Islamic radicals.

The Taliban regime has refused to turn over Bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks in which hijackers crashed passenger airliners into US cities, killing around 5,000 people.

US President George W. Bush launched a military campaign on Oct. 7 to catch Bin Laden "dead or alive."

US/A17

AFP

SUSPECT Marvin Johnson, a bio-chemist, claims links to al-Qaida.

Police nab Zamboanga bombing suspect

By Julie Alipala-Inot
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Police have arrested a bio-chemist as a suspect in a blast here on Sunday that left at least five dead and scores wounded.

The suspect was identified as Marvin Johnson, 27, alias Abdulmalik Johnson, who was arrested Monday night in a predominantly Muslim village west of the city.

Johnson claimed there were still 40 bombs planted throughout this city.

Seized from him were al-Qaida documents and bombing paraphernalia. The Agence France Presse reported that a list of buildings, including malls, Roman Catholic churches and markets, was also taken from the suspect.

Al-Qaida is the terrorist organization headed by Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu confirmed that the bombings were "definitely linked to the Abu Sayyaf Group."

"It appears that there are organized bombers if you look at the

POLICE/A17

RP 'smart choice,' GMA tells Chinese

By Carlito Pablo

BEIJING—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday told Chinese businessmen after she arrived here on a cold, moonlit Monday night for a three-day state visit that "the Philippines is the smart choice to do business in."

Ms Macapagal delivered this message in a speech before the Philippines-China business forum at the Kerry Center Hotel where she witnessed the signing of 12 agreements between Filipino and Chinese businessmen.

The agreements covered telecommunications, metals, housing, leisure, agriculture and e-commerce.

RP/A5

WELCOME rites for President Macapagal who's escorted by China's President Jiang Zemin after reviewing a guard of honor in front of the Great Hall of the People on Tuesday.

REUTERS

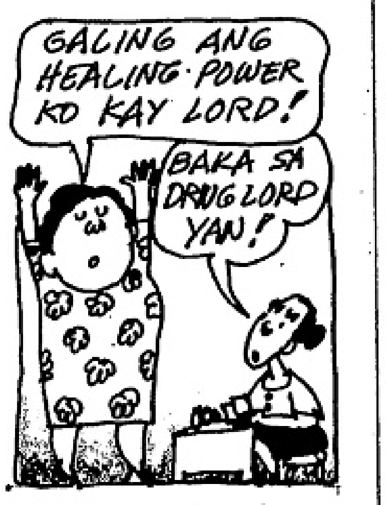
Touched by the devil or the divine?

By Volt Contreras

GERTRUDES Paspos, 65, was too poor to finish high school in her native Samar. Now a skinny, droopy-eyed widow, she along with a close friend rents a house next to a beer house in Novaliches.

What could she possibly

TOUCHED/A5



GALING ANG HEALING POWER KO KAY LORD!
BAKA SA DRUG LORD YAN!

GMA hails 3 Pinoy newsmen in Beijing

BEIJING—Three Filipino newsmen working as Beijing bureau chiefs of America's top three television networks were among the 300 Filipinos feted by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday night upon her arrival here for a state visit.

A Malacañang statement named the three as Jaime Flor Cruz of CNN, Jose Santiago Sta. Romana of ABC and Ericson Baculinao of NBC.

"I salute you all for the sacri-

GMA/A5

Ombudsman blasts Sandigan for 'acquitting' Estrada

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE FIRST division of the Sandiganbayan "took the role of the defense" on Monday and "practically" acquitted Joseph Estrada of perjury, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said yesterday.

"The court denied the evidence of the prosecution that had not been offered (to the court) in the first place. To top it all, there is no motion from the defense to reject the evidence of the prosecution," Desierto told the INQUIRER by phone from his residence in Cebu City.

He declared, however, that the prosecution's evidence was "solid," and that the team would exhaust all legal means to "get justice done."

He also said he did not deem the "Garchitorena ruling" a setback because the perjury case was just one of three cases that the Office of the Ombudsman had filed against the deposed President.

Estrada is also facing charges of plunder and illegal use of alias. Of the three cases, the plunder case is the most important, Desierto said.

The Ombudsman told a news conference in Cebu that the prosecution would file a motion for reconsideration before the anti-graft court's first division chaired by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena.

If that motion is denied, the team will elevate the matter to the Su-

OMBUDSMAN/A17

Erap to sue Desierto

By Volt Contreras

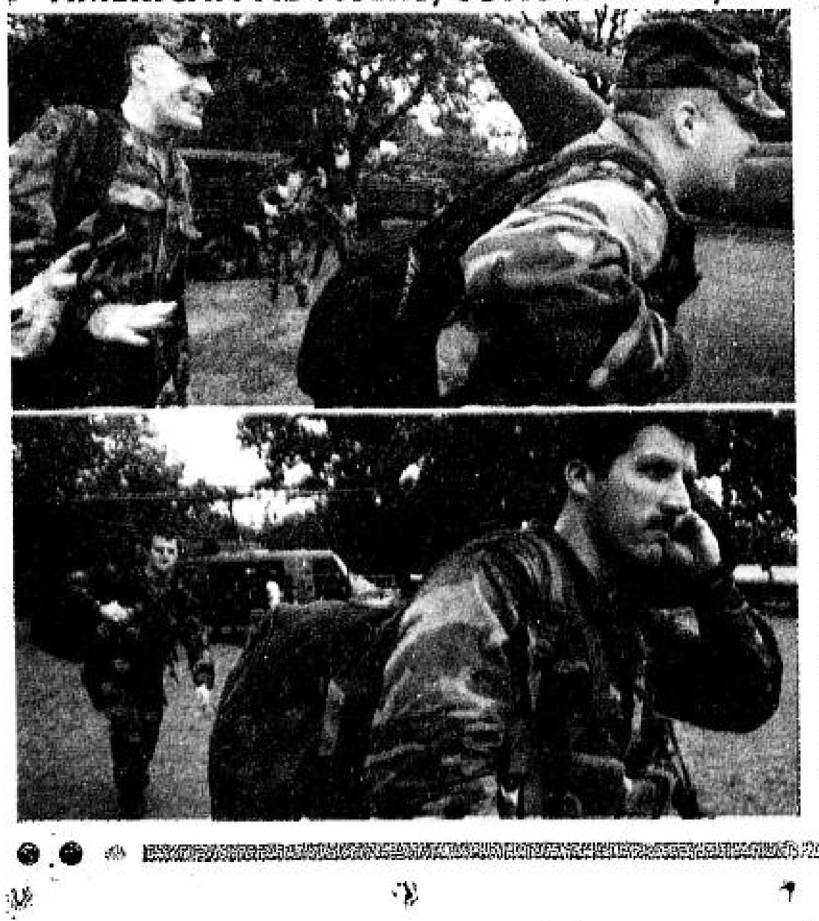
JOSEPH Estrada's lawyers are set to slap his accusers with a multi-million-peso damage suit for "malicious prosecution," particularly concerning the perjury charge against him.

Estrada lawyer Raymund Fortun said yesterday in an interview that they would file the civil case against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto et al. with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court not later than Wednesday next week.

Agence France Presse quoted

ERAP/A17

AMERICAN ADVISERS/CONSULTANTS/COORDINATORS



Described as "expert evaluators and planners in the field of operations, intelligence and logistics, civil affairs and communications," the 23 US advisers are set to fly back to Manila after a week-long, daily chopper shuttles to Basilan from Zamboanga City where they are based. Yesterday, they visited the 2nd Marine Brigade in Maluso, Basilan (see photos). US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the US military personnel were providing "advice and assessment" to the Philippines on dealing with the Abu Sayyaf, which has been linked to the al-Qaida terrorist network of Bin Laden.

PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON

PLEASE GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

Mayor's slay imperils talks

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday accused communist guerrillas of killing three people, including a Laguna town mayor and a police officer, and said the violence cast fresh doubt on already stalled peace talks.

Government peace negotiator Eduardo Ermita said police suspected the New People's Army, the armed unit of the Communist Party, for the deaths on Monday of Mabitac mayor Bernardo Sarayot, his driver and a police officer.

"It would further delay our peace talks with them," Ermita said in a radio interview yesterday.

"What the government panel is looking for is confidence-building. If they continue to ambush people, especially political leaders, they are prolonging the conflict between the NPA and the Armed Forces," Ermita said.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday described the ambush of Sarayot as an indication of the "insincerity" of the NDF.

"To me, it is a sign... that they don't want peace. If they want peace, they should show more sincerity in arriving at a peaceful resolution. It's difficult to proceed in the peace talks while at the same time they are committing atrocities," Reyes told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

The Philippine National Police said it would file a formal complaint against the NPA for violation of the ceasefire.

Thompson Lantion, PNP director for police-community relations, said the incident would be considered a clear violation of the ceasefire agreement signed between the government and NDF in Oslo, Norway, last April.

He said the PNP would formally inform the government peace panel of the incident. The panel would then be asked to present the complaint before NDF leaders.

"That the dissidents continued with their offensives is a clear violation of the order for a ceasefire. The Sarayot ambush is a clear indication of the NPA's lack of sincerity," Lantion explained in Filipino.

Sarayot was on his way to Manila when he was ambushed on the national highway in Teresa, Rizal.

Police said four gunmen opened fire on the car of Sayarot, then shot him and his driver in the head at point-blank range when the vehicle came to a stop.

A police officer was shot dead when the gunmen fled through a police barricade, said police inspector Patricia Pantaleon.

Two of the suspects had been arrested, but the other two had fled into the mountains, Pantaleon said, giving no further details.

Reyes said police had earlier warned Sarayot to take precautions because intelligence reports indicated he was included in the NPA's hit list for his support of the government's counter-insurgency drive.

"We have been warning him, but it seemed there were lapses in security on the mayor's part," Reyes said.

The NPA has a record of assassinating politicians, most recently taking responsibility for the slaying of two local politicians in June, which prompted the government to suspend the peace talks.

The government has insisted that the NDF renounce political assassinations before it will agree to negotiate. *Cathy C. Yamsuan and Martin Marfil with reports from Reuters, AFP*

Laguna town mourns fallen leader

BY ROMULO O. PONTE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MABITAC, Laguna—Thousands of residents of this Laguna town—including 2,000 families, Philippine Health Insurance beneficiaries, senior citizens and 200 scholars—are grieving for their fallen leader and benefactor, Mayor Bernardo Sayarot.

Municipal administrator Norberto I. Tubaña said it was the first time in the history of Mabitac that a town mayor refused to claim his salary for the three years that he was in office.

"Instead, Sayarot used his personal money to pay P237,000 yearly for the Philhealth insurance needs of 2,000 families," Tubaña said in a telephone interview.

The mayor also paid for the funeral expenses of senior citizens and financed the education of 54 college scholars, he said.

A municipal officer, who asked not to be named, said the mayor supported about 200 scholars who are all studying in state universities.

Rizal provincial police said yesterday communist rebel returnees who have turned professional assassins were responsible for the ambush-slaying of Sayarot.

Supt. Arturo Tolentino, the Rizal provincial police chief, said the two suspects, Donato Bulasog and Edwin Librea, were former members of the New People's Army who left the communist movement to become guns for hire.

He did not give details as he said the investigation was still going on.

But Tolentino said the suspects have admitted their participation in the killing of Sarayot, his driver Gabriel Fuentes and a Teresa traffic policeman, SPO2 Eduardo Sena.

Sayarot was on his way to Manila with his driver when gunmen waylaid him on the national highway last Monday.

Sena was killed when he went to the mayor's rescue.

Tolentino said Librea had a personal grudge against Sarayot whom he blamed for the demolition of his house in Mabitac. "We now have a motive, a suspect and a general picture of how the crime was committed," Tolentino said.

The Rizal police chief said that pursuit operations were still going on for two other gunmen who remain at large.

"We will get them," Tolentino said.

But Mabitac residents have their own theories about the killing of their mayor.

Tubaña said Sayarot had no other enemy except his political rival, ex-mayor Felix R. Carpio and his son, ex-mayor Judeo Carpio. *With a report from Nelson F. Flores*

Chavit: coup plot real, but...

THE COUP plot against the Macapagal administration is for real but the problem is, there were no takers.

In fact, according to Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson who claimed of having personal knowledge of the coup plot, the would-be participants of the coup attempt took the money from the mastermind but did not join the plot.

Speaking at the Bulung-Pulungan sa Philippine Plaza, Singson said that the plot was hatched by "prominent" members of the political opposition. He refused to name names, saying he did not want to get into another trouble.

According to Singson, these politicians had approached certain officers in the military and the police with the rank of colonel down to first lieutenant.

He said some of those offered to join the plot accepted the money but in the end, did not join.

Asked where and how he got this information, Singson refused to say.

While no names were mentioned, the spotlight fell on police Supt. Rafael Cardeño, the leader of the Young Officers Union who was ordered transferred from the Land Transportation Office to Western Visayas (Region 6).

Yesterday, Cardeño said he would comply with the directive to transfer him and that he did not want the order to be an issue.

He said he was willing to be transferred provided that the directive was "legitimate" adding that he was honored to serve people in Western Visayas.

"I don't want my position to be an issue... I will follow the order, as long as it is a legitimate order," Cardeño said. *Cynthia Balana and Martin Marfil*

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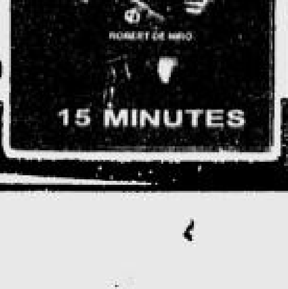

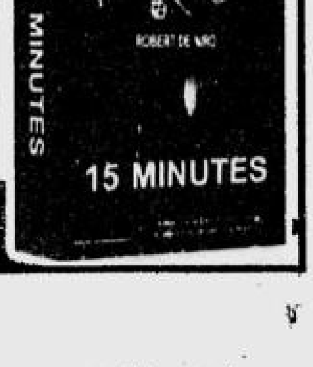

Military says Pentagon, MILF kidnapped priest

By Hernan P. de la Cruz
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MARAWI CITY—The military here believes both the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Pentagon gang were responsible for the kidnapping of Italian priest Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni.

Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, the chief of Task Force Giuseppe, said he did not believe the trading of accusations between the Pentagon gang leader Faisal Marohombsar and MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

"This (exchange of accusations) is purely a show," Atutubo said.

He said the MILF and the Pentagon, which authorities have described as an MILF "lost command," have continued to maintain ties.

Marohombsar, in a radio interview the other day, denied having any hand in the kidnapping of Fr. Pierantoni who was abducted from his parish in Dumataling, Zamboanga del Sur, on Oct. 17.

He claimed that an MILF special operations group was holding the Italian in Pualas town in Lanao del Sur.

Kabalu has denied this, saying the Pentagon was a military creation meant to discredit the MILF.

Atutubo said the charges and counter-charges were intended to confuse the government troops pursuing Fr. Pierantoni's abductors.

Citing investigations conducted by the military, Atutubo said it had been ascertained that "the MILF had participation" in the abduction.

Atutubo said the priest and his abductors had "briefly" met with Ustadz Ali Acas, the alleged MILF operations chief in Lanao del Sur.

Kabalu has denied this, claiming that Acas was based in Maguindanao.

He added that Acas was not an MILF field commander but a member of the group's religious sector.

But Atutubo said the areas where the priest had been sighted with his captors were "the areas controlled or influenced by the MILF."

Latest intelligence reports indicate that Fr. Pierantoni had been turned over to a Commander Macaumbao, an alleged sub-commander of the MILF's special operations group headed by Tahir Alonto.

Macaumbao is a former barangay chair of Pualas, Lanao del Sur.

Marohombsar, in an interview by mobile phone, threatened to rescue the Italian priest from his captors "to prove that I have nothing to do with the abduction."

Marohombsar said the MILF was making it appear that he was behind the abduction by taking the priest to areas in Malabang, Kapatagan and Paulas in Lanao del Sur and in Kidama, Maguindanao where his first wife lives.

He said he was against the abduction of priests because they do not have the money to pay ransom.

He said the MILF had kidnapped the priest "so they (MILF) could use him (Pierantoni) in their backdoor negotiations with the government."

The government and the MILF recently signed a ceasefire agreement. *With a report from Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Dona Pazzibugan, Metro Manila*

Palace: Misuari no longer MNLF head

COTABATO CITY—A Malacañang official yesterday announced that the government is no longer recognizing Gov. Nur Misuari of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao as chair of the Moro National Liberation Front.

"The government is now recognizing the Executive Council of 15, the MNLF's central committee and the policy-making body," Eduardo Ermita, one of President Macapagal's advisers, told Radio dxMS here from Manila.

"We have officially communicated with the Organization of Islamic Conference about this," Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, said.

Ermita did not say the reason why Malacañang cut its ties with Misuari with whom it had signed a peace deal in 1996. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

No Nuñez, no probe

NO Malou Nuñez, no Senate probe on the alleged intervention of First Gentleman on the recall of a presidential veto on the franchise of Philippine Clearinghouse Communications Inc.

This was disclosed by Senate blue ribbon committee chair Sen. Joker Arroyo who underscored the importance of the presence of Nuñez in the committee's next hearing when Senate resumes its regular session on Nov. 12.

"If she does not come, the hearing will go nowhere. Only if she is there (would the hearing push through)," Arroyo said when asked if the committee would be forced to terminate its hearing if Nuñez continues to snub the Senate proceedings.

Nuñez was the Department of Transportation and Communications consultant that was tagged by presidential friend Bing Rodrigo as the one who told her that Arroyo received P50 million in lobby money to recall the veto on the PCCI franchise.

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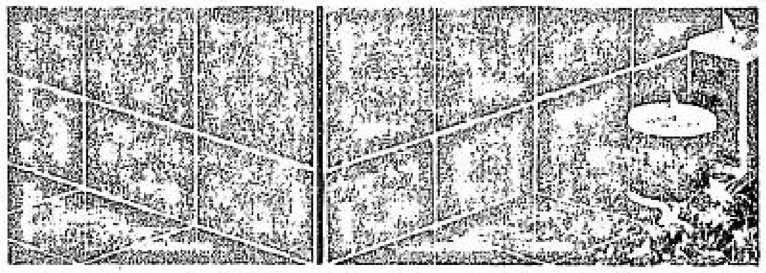

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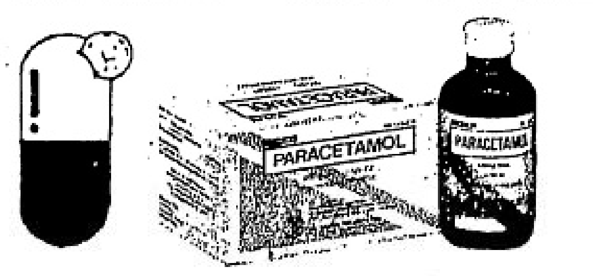

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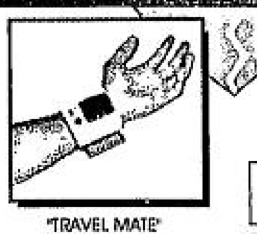

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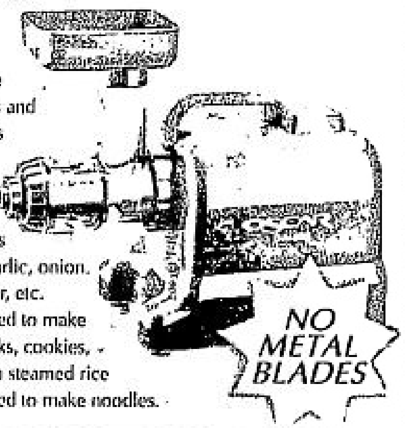

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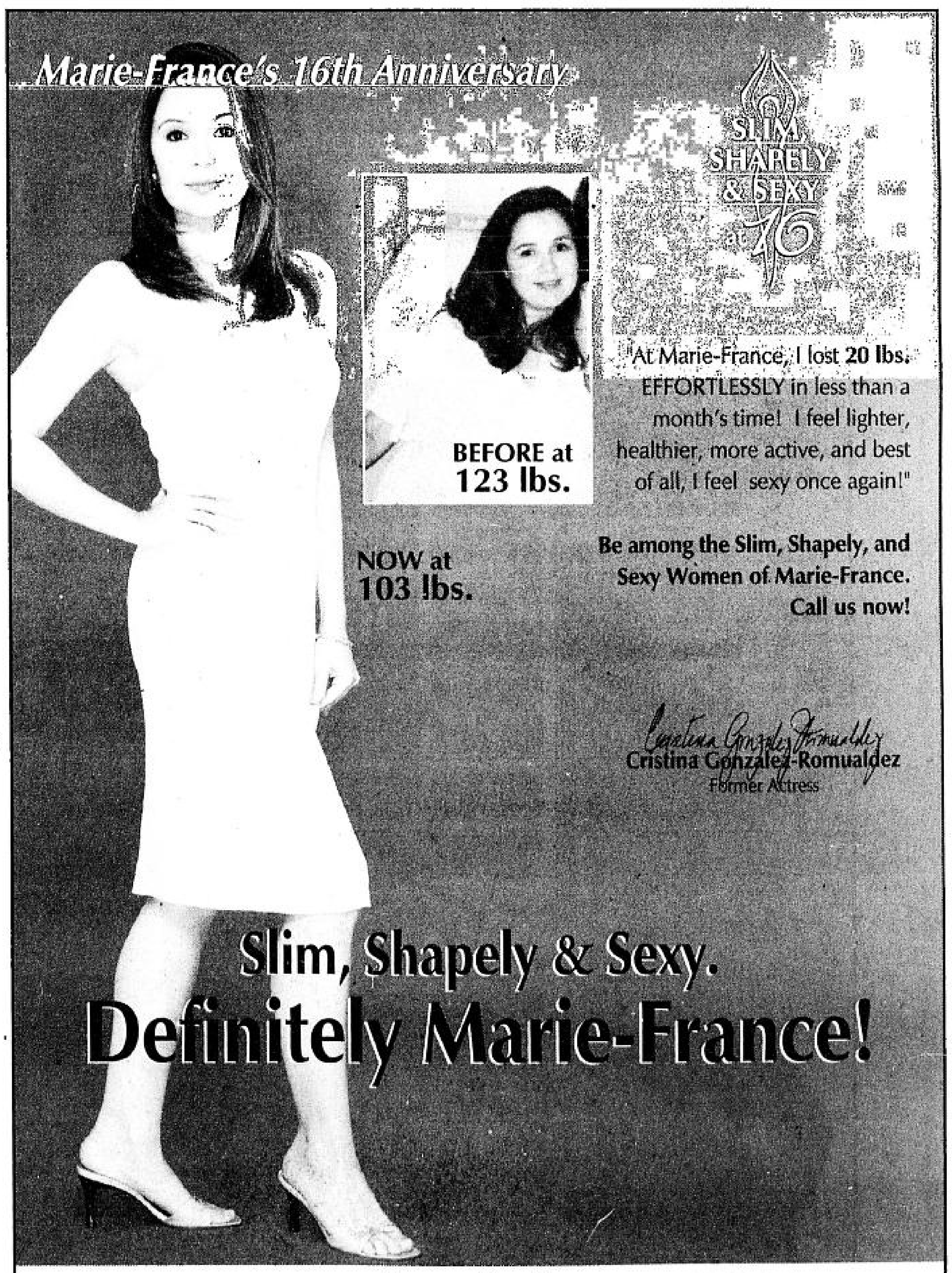
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From MANILA

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	THU	11:00 pm	SF 14	P4	FRI	6:30 pm	BREDCO
	SUN	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	MON	6:00 pm	BREDCO
CAGAYAN de ORO	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	FRI	11:59 am	PUNTOD
	MON	10:00 am	SF 14	P4	TUE	7:30 pm	PUNTOD
	THU	11:00 pm	SF 14	P4	SAT	10:00 am	PUNTOD
CEBU	MON	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	TUE	6:00 pm	CIP
	TUE	3:00 pm	SF 12	P4	WED	11:59 am	CIP
	THU	7:00 pm	SF 12	P4	FRI	4:00 pm	CIP
	SUN	9:00 am	SF 12	P4	MON	6:00 am	CIP
CORON	FRI	4:00 pm	OLOM	P4	SAT	6:00 am	CORON
COTABATO	SAT	10:00 am	SF 2/5/9	P4	MON	5:00 am	POLLOC
DAVAO	MON	2:00 pm	SF 1/8	P14	WED	6:00 pm	SASA
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 1/8	P14	MON	5:00 pm	SASA
DIPOLOG	FRI	11:59 pm	OLOS	P 14	SUN	3:00 pm	DPLG
DUMAGUETE	MON	11:59 pm	OLOM	P14	WED	11:00 am	DGTE
	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	FRI	4:00 am	DGTE
DUMAGUIT	MON	6:00 pm	OLOL	P4	TUE	9:30 am	DUM
	WED	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	THU	5:30 am	DUM
	SAT	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	SUN	5:30 am	DUM
GEN. SANTOS	MON	2:00 pm	SF 1/8	P14	WED	8:00 am	MAKAR
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 1/8	P14	MON	7:00 am	MAKAR
ILIGAN	THU	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P14	SAT	9:00 am	ILIGAN
	SUN	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	TUE	10:00 am	ILIGAN
ILOILO	THU	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P14	FRI	5:00 pm	SNPED
	MON	10:00 am	SF 14	P4	TUE	5:00 am	SNPED
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 1/8	P14	SUN	5:00 am	LOBOC
MASBATE	TUE	11:00 pm	OLOS	P 14	WED	6:00 pm	MSBTE
NASIPIT/ BUTUAN	MON	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	WED	10:30 am	NASIPIT
	THU	11:59 pm	SF 1/8	P14	SAT	10:00 am	NASIPIT
OZAMIZ	THU	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P14	SAT	1:00 pm	OZAMIZ
	SUN	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	TUE	2:00 pm	OZAMIZ
PALOMPON	TUE	11:00 pm	OLOS	P 14	THU	3:00 am	PALOMPON
P. PRINCESA	FRI	4:00 pm	OLOM	P4	SAT	8:00 pm	PPS
ROXAS	MON	6:00 pm	OLOL	P4	TUE	12:30 pm	CULASI
	WED	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	THU	8:30 am	CULASI
	SAT	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	SUN	8:30 am	CULASI
SURIGAO	MON	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	WED	4:00 am	SURIGAO
	THU	11:59pm	SF 1/8	P14	SAT	4:00 am	SURIGAO
TAGBILARAN	MON	11:59 pm	OLOM	P14	WED	5:30 am	TAGBI
	FRI	11:59 pm	OLOS	P14	SUN	7:00 am	TAGBI
ZAMBOANGA	MON	2:00 pm	SF 1/8	P14	TUE	6:00 pm	ZAMBO
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 2/5/9	P4	SUN	6:00 pm	ZAMBO

From BACOLOD

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CAGAYAN	FRI	9:00 pm	SF 14	BREDCO	SAT	10:00 am	PUNTOD
ILIGAN	MON	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	BREDCO	TUE	10:00 am	ILIGAN
OZAMIZ	MON	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	BREDCO	TUE	2:00 pm	OZA
MANILA	WED	3:30 pm	SF 14	BREDCO	THU	11:00 am	P4
	SUN	2:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	BREDCO	MON	11:00 am	P4

From CAGAYAN de ORO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	TUE	11:59 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	WED	1:00 pm	BREDCO
DUMAGUETE	FRI	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	PUNTOD	SAT	8:00 am	DGTE
ILOILO	SAT	7:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	SUN	8:00 am	LOBOC
MANILA	TUE	11:59 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	THU	11:00 am	P4
	FRI	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	PUNTOD	SUN	11:00 am	P4
	SAT	7:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	MON	5:00 am	P4

From CEBU

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
NASIPIT	TUE	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	CIP	WED	10:30 am	NAS
SURIGAO	TUE	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	CIP	WED	4:00 am	SUR
MANILA	MON	11:59 am	SF 12	CIP	TUE	6:00 am	P4
	WED	5:00 pm	SF 12	CIP	THU	2:00 pm	P4
	THU	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	CIP	FRI	6:00 pm	P4
	FRI	8:00 pm	SF 12	CIP	SAT	5:00 pm	P4
	SUN	9:00 am	SF 1/8	CIP	MON	6:00 am	P14

From CORON

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
P. PRINCESA	SAT	7:00 am	OLOM	CORON	SAT	8:00 pm	PPS
MANILA	SUN	11:00 pm	OLOM	CORON	MON	1:00 pm	P14

From COTABATO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
ILOILO	MON	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	POLLOC	TUE	2:00 pm	SNPED
ZAMBOANGA	MON	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	POLLOC	MON	8:00 pm	ZAMBO.
MANILA	MON	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	POLLOC	WED	1:00 pm	P4

From DAVAO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
GEN. SANTOS	MON	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	TUE	7:00 am	MAKAR
	WED	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	THU	7:00 am	MAKAR
ILOILO	MON	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	WED	10:00 am	LOBOC
ZAMBOANGA	WED	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	THU	10:00 pm	ZAMBO
MANILA	MON	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	THU	7:00 am	P14
	WED	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	SAT	4:00 am	P14

From DIPOLOG

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
TAGBILARAN	SUN	11:59 pm	OLOS	DIPOLOG	MON	6:00 am	TAGBI
MANILA	SUN	11:59 pm	OLOS	DIPOLOG	TUE	5:00 pm	P14

From DUMAGUETE

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CAGAYAN	FRI	6:00 am	SF 2/5/9	DGTE	FRI	11:59 am	PUNTOD
TAGBILARAN	WED	4:00 pm	OLOM	DGTE	WED	7:00 pm	TAGBI
MANILA	WED	4:00 pm	OLOM	DGTE	FRI	4:00 am	P4
	SAT	9:00 am	SF 2/5/9	DGTE	SUN	11:00 am	P4

From DUMAGUIT

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
ROXAS	TUE	11:00 am	OLOL	DUM	TUE	12:30 pm	CULASI
	THU	7:00 am	OLOL	DUM	THU	8:30 am	CULASI
	SUN	7:00 am	OLOL	DUM	SUN	8:30 am	CULASI
MANILA	TUE	7:00 pm	OLOL	DUM	WED	9:00 am	P4
	THU	3:30 pm	OLOL	DUM	FRI	7:00 am	P4
	SUN	3:30 pm	OLOL	DUM	MON	7:00 am	P4

From GEN. SANTOS

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
DAVAO	MON	9:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	MON	5:00 pm	SASA
	WED	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	WED	6:00 pm	SASA
ILOILO	TUE	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	WED	10:00 am	LOBOC
ZAMBOANGA	THU	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	THU	10:00 pm	ZAMBO
MANILA	TUE	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	THU	7:00 am	P14
	THU	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	SAT	4:00 am	P14

From ILIGAN

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	SAT	10:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	SUN	11:59 am	BREDCO
OZAMIZ	TUE	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	TUE	2:00 pm	OZA
	SAT	11:00 am	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	SAT	1:00 pm	OZA
MANILA	TUE	11:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	THU	5:00 am	P14
	SAT	10:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	MON	11:00 am	P4

From ILOILO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CAGAYAN	TUE	7:00 am	SF 14	SNPED	TUE	7:30 pm	PUNTOD
DAVAO	SUN	7:00 am	SF 1/8	LOBOC	MON	5:00 pm	SASA
GEN. SANTOS	SUN	7:00 am	SF 1/8	LOBOC	MON	7:00 am	MAKAR
ILIGAN	FRI	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	SNPED	SAT	9:00 am	ILI
OZAMIZ	FRI	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	SNPED	SAT	1:00 pm	OZA
MANILA	TUE	4:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	SNPED	WED	1:00 pm	P4
	WED	11:59 am	SF 1/8	LOBOC	THU	7:00 am	P14
	SUN	10:00 am	SF 14	LOBOC	MON	8:00 am	P4

From MASBATE

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
PALOMPON	WED	8:00 pm	OLOS	MASBATE	THU	3:00 am	PALOMPON
MANILA	THU	4:00 pm	OLOS	MASBATE	FRI	11:00 am	P14

From NASIPIT / BUTUAN

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CEBU	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	NAS	THU	4:00 pm	CIP
	SAT	4:00 pm	SF 1/8	NAS	SUN	6:00 am	CIP
SURIGAO	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	NAS	THU	4:30 am	SUR
	SAT	4:00 pm	SF 1/8	NAS	SAT	8:00 pm	SUR
MANILA	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	NAS	FRI	6:00 pm	P4
	SAT	4:00 pm	SF 1/8	NAS	MON	6:00 am	P14

From OZAMIZ

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	SAT	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	SUN	11:59 am	BREDCO
ILIGAN	TUE	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	TUE	9:00 pm	ILIGAN
	SAT	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	SAT	8:00 pm	ILIGAN
MANILA	TUE	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	THU	5:00 am	P14
	SAT	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	MON	11:00 am	P4

From PALOMPON

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
MASBATE	THU	7:00 am	OLOS	PALOMPON	THU	2:00 pm	MASBATE
MANILA	THU	7:00 am	OLOS	PALOMPON	FRI	11:00 am	P14

From PUERTO PRINCESA

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CORON	SUN	9:00 am	MEDJU	Pps	SUN	10:00 pm	CORON
MANILA	SUN	9:00 am	OLOM	Pps	MON	1:00 pm	P14

From ROXAS

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
DUMAGUIT	TUE	4:00 pm	OLOL	CULASI	TUE	5:30 pm	DUMAGUIT
	THU	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	THU	2:00 pm	DUMAGUIT
	SUN	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	SUN	2:00 pm	DUMAGUIT
MANILA	TUE	4:00 pm	OLOL	CULASI	WED	9:00 am	P4
	THU	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	FRI	7:00 am	P4
	SUN	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	MON	7:00 am	P4

From SURIGAO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CEBU	THU	9:00 am	SF 2/5/9	SUR	THU	4:00 pm	CIP
	SAT	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SUR	SUN	6:00 am	CIP
NASIPIT	WED	6:00 am	SF 2/5/9	SUR	WED	10:30 am	NAS
	SAT	6:00 am	SF 1/8	SUR	SAT	10:00 am	NAS
MANILA	THU	9:00 am	SF 2/5/9	SUR	FRI	6:00 pm	P4
	SAT	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SUR	MON	6:00 am	P14

From TAGBILARAN

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
DIPOLOG	SUN	9:00 am	OLOS	TAGBI	SUN	3:00 pm	DIPOLOG
DUMAGUETE	WED	8:00 am	OLOM	TAGBI	WED	11:00 am	DGTE
MANILA	WED	11:00 pm	OLOM	TAGBI	FRI	4:00 am	P4
	MON	10:00 am	OLOS	TAGBI	TUE	5:00 pm	P14

From ZAMBOANGA

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
COTABATO	SUN	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ZAMBO	MON	5:00 am	POLLOC
DAVAO	TUE	8:00 pm	SF 1/8	ZAMBO	WED	6:00 pm	SASA
GEN. SANTOS	TUE	8:00 pm	SF 1/8	ZAMBO	WED	8:00 am	MAKAR
ILOILO	MON	11:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ZAMBO	TUE	2:00 pm	SNPED
MANILA	MON	11:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ZAMBO	WED	1:00 pm	P4
	THU	11:59 pm	SF 1/8	ZAMBO	SAT	4:00 am	P14

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RP 'smart choice,' GMA tells Chinese

(From page A1)

"I congratulate China for your accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) two weeks from now. Every nation, including the Philippines, is poised for opportunities offered by this event," the President said.

Ms Macapagal, however, noted that China's membership in the WTO was "both a welcome and challenging development."

"On one hand, some Philippine products will face stiffer competition from China both in the world market and the domestic market," she said.

"On the other hand, we also welcome the prospect of greater access and participation in China's highly promising domestic market," the President added.

Earlier in the day, Ms Macapagal met with Chinese President Ziang Zemin at the Great Hall of the People where they witnessed the signing of three agreements aimed at fighting terrorism and organized crime.

These were the Treaty of Extradition, Memorandum of Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime, and Memorandum of Agreement on Cooperation Against Illicit Traffic and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Control of Precursor Chemicals.

Ms Macapagal and Ziang also exchanged notes on the establishment of a Philippine consulate in Shanghai.

She started the day with a meeting with Li Peng, chair of the National People's Congress, at the Great Hall of the People.

The meeting with Li, who served as China's premiere in 1987-1988, was followed by a business luncheon forum at the Kerry Center Hotel where Ms Macapagal addressed members of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the China Chamber of International Commerce.

She then proceeded to the Tsinghua University where she was conferred an honorary doctorate degree in economics.

Ms Macapagal was the first foreign state leader to be conferred the degree by the world-renowned scientific and technological institution.

It was also the first honorary doctorate degree received by Ms Macapagal from a foreign academic institution.

After the awarding ceremonies, she delivered a major policy speech on Philippine-China relations.

At the Philippines-China business forum, the President noted that the two countries had a long history of trading dating back to the Sung Dynasty and that both could look forward to "limitless possibilities" in the near future.

Fastest growing economy

She noted that the current pace of events had placed China, the most populous nation, "at the center of world attention, not only as the fastest growing economy, but also as a leading partner in the globalized regime."

The President assured Chinese businessmen that her administration "will continue to adopt and implement policies along the line of enlightened liberalization, deregulation and privatization."

She identified telecommunications, power, e-business and information technology as areas where investors might want to participate in.

The President stressed that her administration had introduced reforms to make these areas attractive to investors.

"With your support, and with our current crop of dynamic economic and business leaders in my country supporting good, clean and effective governance, we will be able to achieve and sustain a business climate attractive for doing business for the long term;" Ms Macapagal said.

She said the Philippines expected growth in the export of tropical fruits to China as well as minerals, marine-based products and other resource-based commodities.

She also said that the country was looking forward to the introduction of non-traditional exports like natural fiber, coco coir and professional services related to education and marketing.

In the meeting with Li, the chair of the National People's Congress expressed gratitude to Ms Macapagal for her "personal intervention," which resulted in the release of Zhang Zhongyi, who was earlier kidnapped by the Pentagon Gang in Mindanao.

The release of Zhang was facilitated by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front through the help of the Libyan ambassador to the Philippines.

For her part, Ms Macapagal congratulated China for winning the bid to host the Olympics in 2008.

The President said the Philippines could help China's preparations through the teaching of English to Chinese nationals.

Surrender of convicts

The extradition treaty provides for the surrender of convicted and accused persons in the jurisdiction of the requested country.

The treaty also covers persons wanted by the requesting country for prosecution or for the imposition or enforcement of a sentence.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Minister Tang Jiaxuan of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed the Extradition Treaty.

The Memorandum of Agreement on Combating Transnational Crimes was signed by Interior Secretary Jose Lina and his Chinese counterpart.

It provides for a mechanism for the law enforcement agencies of the two countries to cooperate in the prevention and investigation of crimes across national borders.

The transnational crimes were identified as terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, trafficking of persons, forgery of travel documents, counterfeiting, piracy, illegal trafficking in weapons, illegal acquisition and trade of cultural treasures, and violation of intellectual property rights.

The agreement also provides for training of personnel and exchange of intelligence, documents and information on ongoing cases.

The memorandum of agreement on cooperation against the illicit traffic of drugs was also signed by Lina and his Chinese counterpart.

The exchange of notes on the opening a Philippine consulate in Shanghai was signed by Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja and Vice Minister Wang Yi of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

GMA hails 3 Pinoy newsmen in Beijing

(From page A1)

fices you have made for your families and for your country," the President said during dinner at the Kerry Center Hotel in Beijing.

"And even though you are here in China, you still have made great contributions to the continuing progress of the Philippines.

"I am impressed that quite a few are holding highly skilled and professional jobs," Ms Macapagal also told her audience of 300 China-based Filipinos.

About 1,500 Filipinos are working in hotels, restaurants and other establishments in the cities of Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Xiamen, Shanghai and Beijing, including some who hold top positions in their respective companies.

At the hotel's luxurious grand ballroom, Chinese waiters served the President's party and the well-dressed Filipino crowd with what a Philippine Embassy official described as "a small dinner."

If by imperial standards it was indeed a small dinner: 12 courses starting with a dimsum combination.

There were barbecue meat, sweet corn soup with conpoy and enoki mushrooms, sautéed diced chicken with cashew nuts and vegetables, pan-fried Chinese beef fillet, steamed Mandarin fish in soy sauce, assorted braised vegetables with black mushrooms and fried rice with shrimp. For dessert, sweetened red bean cream and fresh fruit were served.

Red and white wine, beer and other drinks flowed. The after-dinner entertainment consisted of modern ballet by the Halili-Cruz dance troupe.

The opulence sharply contrasted with the austerity of the President's meeting in Hong Kong with Filipino workers. While a large number of the 180,000 Filipino workers in Hong Kong are mostly domestic helpers, the small Filipino community in mainland China includes corporate officials, media executives, hotel managers and the like.

Ms Macapagal addressed the Filipinos in the former British colony inside the warehouse-like Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibition Center.

Sandwiches in Styrofoam boxes and juice in tetra pack were served during the meeting with thousands of Filipino women who were seated in plastic chairs while stern Hong Kong policemen in civilian clothes restricted their movements.

While the setting and food may be different, the President had the same message for Filipinos in Hong Kong and China.

Addressing the Filipinos here, the President expressed gratitude for their contribution to the Philippine economy.

"That's why I salute you because you're helping not only your families but also our economy while you're temporarily here," she said.

She also noted that their success here was largely because "the (Chinese) economy is successful."

Overseas Filipino workers remit $7 billion to the Philippines yearly.

Ms Macapagal said she inherited an economy with 4 million jobless workers, a 40-percent poverty incidence and a budget deficit projected to reach P225 billion.

"It is no wonder that our compatriots continue to find work elsewhere," she said.

Ms Macapagal recalled that during the term of her father President Diosdado Macapagal, when the economy was second only to Japan in Asia, "there were foreign workers in the Philippines, including 'amahs (nannies)' from China."

She said the country would have to learn a lot from China, particularly agriculture technology.

The President said China, the most populous nation in the world, was able to address "mass poverty through agriculture technology."

She said that the Philippines should not be afraid of China's upcoming membership in the World Trade Organization.

President Macapagal said the country could make use of opportunities resulting from China's entry into the WTO, particularly in exports.

China is the Philippines' 12th biggest market of exports, mainly coconut oil, metal and fruits.

Last year, the country enjoyed a trade surplus with China for the first time since 1976 when the two countries established diplomatic relations.

Bilateral trade totaled $3.14 billion, in favor of the Philippines.

Ambassador Josue Villa said in a statement that "with greater access in both markets, there is greater confidence among business people arising from new opportunities." *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

Touched by the devil . . .

(From page A1)

have in common with "Ms Y," 66, a retired high school English teacher living in a middle-class Quezon City subdivision with a husband who plays golf and children who studied in the Ateneo de Manila, Assumption College, and University of the Philippines?

The two *lolas* are worlds apart and have never known each other, but they share something wonderful. That is, if their claim is true that they are vessels of "holy" entities—from the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin, the saints to archangels, and practically the hierarchy of the Christian heaven.

They are examples of the *sinasapian*, so called because they are possessed by the divine.

Like Paspos or Ms Y, the possessed usually draw a close circle of followers or become part of a group whose members share this same "gift." They hold regular prayer meetings at chapels or shrines they had built themselves, where the chosen medium would fall into a trance as a signal of possession.

They are said to have powers to treat various ailments. In between "healing" sessions they convey direct "messages" from God, usually Biblical platitudes on love, repentance, and the abandonment of greed and materialism.

By their fruits...

To non-believers, Paspos and Ms Y represent the extremes in Philippine folk religiosity. The Catholic Church, if not ignoring them entirely, regards them with skepticism.

Others laugh them off as harmless hoaxes or, worse, plain psychiatric cases.

Sometime in '87, a panel composed of a bishop, a priest, two medical doctors and a psychiatrist "investigated us," recalled Ms Y.

"You know what they said? That we are hoaxes and that it was best just to ignore us. The psychiatrist even joked that 'there are many of you in Mandaluyong' (site of the national mental hospital)," she said.

The panel even "challenged us to bring the dead back to life. But we are only programmed to do small things—to heal—and are not endowed with the totality of God (to be able to resurrect the dead)!"

As to these cynics who even ridicule them, she said, "we just pray for them, for we know we can't please everybody."

But those whom Ms Y's group had "pleased," are the "hundreds of people who were cured of diseases as serious as cancer of the lungs, cancer of the brain . . . If what we do is planted by evil, then its fruit must also be evil, right?"

Suspicions will continually hound the *sinasapian* as long as they are around like the high-profile Paspos in Quiapo or even Ms Y in the privacy of her anonymity.

In the case of Paspos, even some of her fellow denizens at Plaza Miranda just outside Quiapo Church—those ubiquitous sidewalk fortunetellers and vendors of amulets, herbal medicines, "blessed" potions and religious items—warn their customers against her kind.

Fridays at Quiapo

Every Friday, this lanky grandmother takes her spot just outside the church's main door. She's the one with the ashen, shoulder-length hair wearing the crimson garb of the Black Nazarene.

She would often be seen kneeling serenely in a corner, her bony hands pressed together in prayer, oblivious to the day's heat, pollution and Quiapo's maddening din of pedestrians, hawkers and screaming jeepneys. Several times a day a churchgoer would approach her to confide a personal problem or point to an aching part of the body.

The session includes "praying over" the distressed person, pressing the painful joint or flesh, then dispensing some lengthy advice for the soul.

"Faith healers have a different set of knowledge. I am different. I'm being used by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes the Blessed Mother, or the Sto. Niño," Paspos said.

Married when she was only 19, she said "I left my family" in the province when she got initiated into this kind of life at 39. It all started when she joined a religious group that was centered on a man who was also possessed by heavenly spirits.

Soon enough, she, too, shared in his experience. Her trance is usually induced by her recitation of a "special prayer lasting for three hours."

Asked if she has any normal source of income, Paspos said she survives on the cash donations she gets "when I'm called to do some service in different homes."

"Majority of us who are this 'spiritual' have no normal jobs. In my case, I've tried applying in offices or factories but they usually hire at least high school graduates," she said in Filipino.

Ms Y agreed to be interviewed on condition of anonymity, as it is the unspoken rule in her religious organization not to court publicity.

"My children would ask me, 'Can't you just be a normal mommy, Mommy?'" said the mother of three and *lola* of 10.

"At the beginning, I can say my family had accepted this (happening to me) but they never encourage it. My husband is a very realistic person and my children are not really that religious."

Special effects

Ms Y started "receiving the spirit" in 1985, when she joined a movement which to this day meets weekly either somewhere in Taguig or Quezon City. Most of the members are women like her, retired professionals whose husbands occupy high positions in the government or business sectors.

She claims to play host to the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Mother, and St. Michael the Archangel. How can she tell who had seized her body? It's her colleagues who identify the entity by making out "the bright light, the silhouette, the aura" forming above her when she is in a trance. "It's almost like special effects in a movie."

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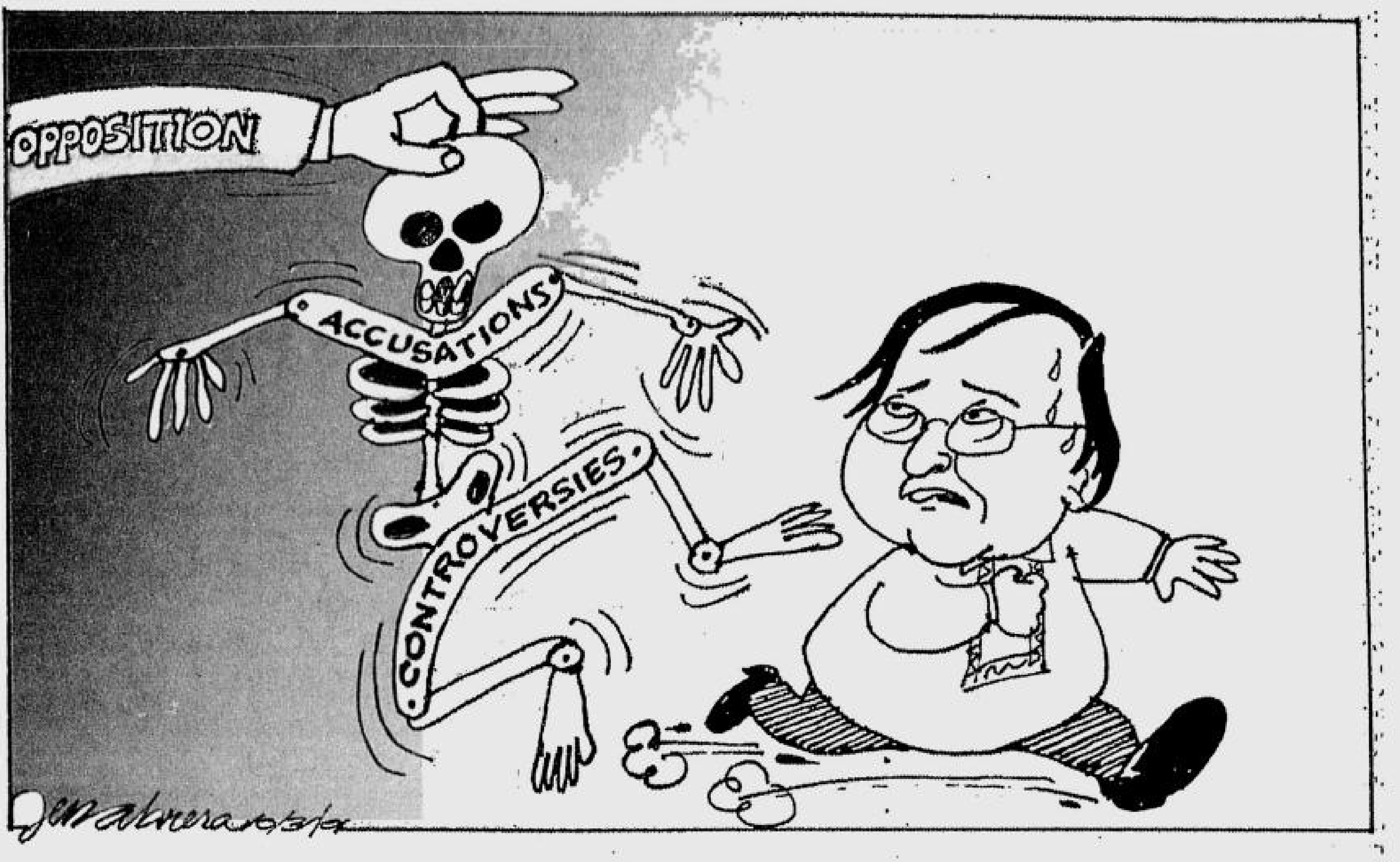

Abu Sayyaf dare

EDITORIAL

TO HEAR top military officials tell it, one would have thought that government forces had delivered a devastating blow to the armed group that has caused the entire country so much grief and embarrassment lately. "The Abu Sayyaf bandits are on the run," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said Monday. "They have nowhere to hide."

Was that a victory statement? It sure sounded like one, but Villanueva didn't mean it that way. The country's highest military official was just putting a positive spin to another setback in the campaign to search out and destroy the criminal syndicate that has pulled off the most daring raids and kidnappings in recent memory.

To be sure, the government has chalked up a number of victories in the war against the Abu Sayyaf, with the military counting scores dead on the enemy side this month. But this wasn't one of them. The bombing last Sunday of a busy food plaza left six persons dead and scores of others wounded.

Villanueva said all signs point to the Abu Sayyaf as the culprit. "The attack, the manner it was done, points to the Abu Sayyaf," he said. Interior Secretary Jose Lina agreed saying, "The Abu Sayyaf is behind this bombing."

That's easy enough for the public to accept. The Abu Sayyaf, who are masquerading as Islamic freedom fighters, have shown by their actions that they are nothing but a bunch of terrorists and criminals. They don't choose the victims of their depredations such as when they raided Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, and put the public market to the torch. Neither did they care who would be killed or hurt in their latest bombing attack. And when they do choose their victims, it is for their own maximum profit, such as when they raided plush resorts in Malaysia and Palawan and held tourists for ransom. Or for maximum impact such as when they subjected Fr. Rhoel Gallardo to horrible torture before killing him or when they beheaded their American hostage Guillermo Sobero as an "Independence Day gift" to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Top government officials seem to consider the Abu Sayyaf a spent force on account of the serious reverses they have suffered recently. Just over a week ago, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez was saying that before the month was over, the Armed Forces would deal them a decisive blow. The Zamboanga bombing, however, demonstrates that far from being a spent force, the Abu Sayyaf is capable of launching a counterstrike if not against government forces, then against innocent civilians. A group that is weak and in hiding can hardly stage a bombing right in the heart of a major city like Zamboanga. A group that is constantly on the run wouldn't have the capability to give two dozen American anti-terrorist advisers such a loud welcome.

The American advisers arrived last week and started training Filipino soldiers on how to fight terrorists. Their immediate target is, of course, the Abu Sayyaf, who are not only holding hostage two American hostages but are also believed to have received financial support from al-Qaida, the international terrorist organization headed by Osama bin Laden, which is being blamed for the plane attack in New York and Washington, D.C.

Filipino officials, like Villanueva, say that the Zamboanga bombing was a diversion that was intended to relieve the military pressure on the Abu Sayyaf's main force operating in Basilan. However; its timing makes it look like a taunt and a challenge to the Philippine military and the US advisers. These bandits are telling them with their customary insolence, "Come and get us, if you can."

To that there can only be one response, which is to crush the terrorist band. But can the Armed Forces do it this time?

Stabilizing Afghanistan

FOREIGN COMMENT

MANY are the historical examples of a repressive regime replacing another. And if Afghanistan will become a country where terrorism no longer will have a foothold, more than bombs and a forced change of regime are needed. What is required is a versatility and a long-term commitment that has seldom been seen before.

To stabilize Afghanistan will be a project that according to UN representatives will make Kosovo look like a picnic. But, as everybody knows today, the alternative is devastating. The key therefore to the fight against terrorism is that the United States manages to maintain leadership in a patiently and methodically working coalition, using all means at its disposal. Terrorism will not be dropped from the international agenda until the battle has been won. *Dagens Nyheter (Stockholm, Sweden)*

Tourists are repelled by piles of garbage

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE MACAPAGAL administration is protesting the travel advisories issued by the United States and Japan to their citizens to refrain from going to the Philippines because it is not safe to go there. Not because of bio-terrorism or bombings or airliners crashing into tall buildings but because of kidnappings. Kidnapping has become the most profitable occupation in the Philippines, the fastest way to become a multi-millionaire, and the United States and Japan want to prevent their citizens from becoming victims. The risk of being kidnapped is much greater than getting a lethal dose of anthrax, travelers are warned. The Macapagal administration finds this unfair.

Actually, travelers to the Philippines don't have to be warned against anything. The moment they step out of the airport terminal, they see for themselves why they should not have come here at all. They see piles of stinking, fly-infested garbage everywhere and recoil in revulsion. It takes them hours to reach their hotels because of the traffic. And there's little to see in Metro Manila except the hovels of the poor. The beautiful beaches are out in the countryside but it's difficult to get there, and that's where most of the kidnapping takes place—besides Binondo.

So when they go back to their home countries, they tell their friends and relatives about the garbage and the traffic in Metro Manila and the latter begin to think they'd rather go to Afghanistan first before going to the Philippines.

Malacañang and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon shouldn't blame foreign governments for protecting their citizens. If they have to do some finger-pointing, they should point it at the Metro Manila Development Authority under Chair Benjamin Abalos and the mayors of the cities and municipalities that comprise Metro Manila. They are not collecting the garbage, the reason being there is no place in which to dump them. Abalos keeps on naming a number of places as the new dumps—Rodriguez in Rizal, Navotas, Bataan, and an island off Tondo—but the residents of these places, upon reading about his optimistic (and misleading?) announcements, all protest: "Not in our backyards." Abalos must learn to accept the truth: No person in his right mind will agree to living next door to a garbage dump. He will have to think of more original ways to get rid of the garbage, like probably sending them to the moon, except that the moonmen will surely protest.

Ever the incurable optimist, Abalos is anchoring his solution on waste segregation which the law mandates but which very few follow, not even Abalos himself or other mayors of Metro Manila. Greenpeace activists looked at the garbage cans of Abalos, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, and Pasay Mayor Peewee Trinidad, and revealed that they don't segregate their trash. They have videotapes to prove it. The three officials, as far as I know, have not issued any denials or explanations.

Who have been collecting the household waste of the three? Abalos had warned garbage collectors that he would jail them if they collected unsegregated garbage. But perhaps the collectors got their orders wrong, as the incident below seems to prove.

Our household has been segregating our garbage, not only between bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes. Paper is separated from plastics and styrofoam, from bottles, from cans, from toxic waste like batteries and household chemicals. Even aluminum softdrink cans go into a different bag. Kitchen waste go into the compost pit. No organic waste is thrown away. The bags with the segregated trash are placed outside when the collectors are scheduled to arrive.

But surprise, surprise, the garbage men collected all the unsegregated trash in our community but not our segregated garbage. What happened? I would like to hear an explanation. Maybe it was us who got the message wrong. Did we, Chair Abalos? We'd like to know.

* * *

I am glad to read that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo has finally come to his senses and decided to withdraw from his television and radio programs and "disappear" from public view. That's a good boy. That's the best thing he can do for himself and the President. He attracts criticisms and accusations because he craves the publicity that his wife gets. But there's a price to pay for being well known. Ask the show-biz celebrities. After a time, they begin to feel like fish living in a fishbowl. They become self-conscious all the time, knowing that people are constantly watching them. They can't even go malling without attracting attention. And these are people with good personalities, nice figures and pleasing voices.

Mr. Arroyo says he just wants to help his wife serve the people. A noble goal, but his efforts are doing her more harm than good. She faithfully defends him like a good wife, but I am sure she feels he is like an albatross around her neck dragging her down.

The best way to help her is to disappear into the woodwork, be like an invisible man. Warn friends and poseurs not to use his name in vain on pain of punishment.

If that doesn't work, the President can always appoint him ambassador—to Afghanistan.

Revelations

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THAT was a remarkable answer President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo gave to a question that was asked her in Hong Kong. Why didn't she come out sooner to damn former President Joseph Estrada for corruption? The reports did not mention who asked that question, but it is a most perspicacious one.

Ms Macapagal answered that as social welfare secretary, she existed in "the distant outpost of empire," and had no insider's view to the corruption that was going on in Estrada's administration. It was only when Chavit Singson came out with his revelations, she said, that she got to be convinced of it.

Did you have to be in Erap's inner circle to be able to see the scale of corruption that was happening there? If you were, you would **not** have seen the corruption, you would have been part of it. But lest the current President forget, she wasn't just the social welfare secretary then, she was the vice president—which is the reason she is the President now. Which was also the reason everyone was begging her to join—to lead was unthinkable, quite apart from way too late—the campaign against Erap as late as the BW Resources scandal in the middle of last year. To no avail.

The NGOs were even farther than the fringes of empire, yet they could smell the rot from where they were. From Day One in fact, when Erap, flush from an overwhelming mandate, thought he could bury Ferdinand Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani. That was the clearest sign his administration would unleash corruption with unprecedented ferocity: there was no moral barrier to deter it. The NGOs stood to be shoved even farther into the outback of empire by fighting Erap, but they took the risk. Not so Ms Macapagal.

Jaime Cardinal Sin and Corazon Aquino were even farther from the outpost of empire, yet they too could smell the stench inside. Both were there in the rally on Aug. 21, 1999, not just to commemorate the death of Ninoy Aquino but to protest Erap's efforts to shut down the INQUIRER after having successfully done so the Manila Times. Not so Ms Macapagal.

The media were just hovering over the empire, yet they too could smell the decaying matter at the heart of it, better than flies could dung. The opposition was outside the *kulambo*, if not outside the gates of empire, yet they too could only recoil from the fetid air that was coming out of the pit of it. The businessmen were just at the feet of empire, yet they too were assailed by the foulness that was coming from the bowels of it. The women, the workers, the *lumads* and indigenous people, the nuns and priests, even the ordinary citizens could smell the rank corruption that was going on inside the heart of empire while they languished in the periphery of it. Not so the vice president of the Philippines.

It does say a thing or two about the ability of the current President of the Philippines to see corruption at all. Fighting corruption and regaining morality is the theme of her visit to China, which she has harped on in her speeches before the Filipinos in Hong Kong. But her track record there little inspires confidence it will be prosecuted with the zeal of the Inquisition. She no longer pines in the outpost of empire—if indeed she did at all—she thrives at the very heart of it. Will she be better able to see corruption now than before?

Well, being too near has a way of producing the same results as being too far. Like I said, if you had been in Erap's inner circle, you would not have seen the thieving at all. You would have been busy doing it.

* * *

The question is not how Romeo Panganiban survived his ordeal with his captors. The question is why he was kidnapped in the first place. Panganiban is only a former public servant, holding on to a position that pays only so much to allow him a reasonably commodious life but not a fantastically lavish one. That he should be the object of unwanted attention of kidnappers must raise some very wanted attention on our part about him.

Panganiban in fact is not just a former public servant, he is a former regional director for Southern Luzon of the Department of Public Works and Highways. Which is like saying that he is a former BIR director or a former Immigration commissioner, officials who are rarely absent from work for reasons that have nothing to do with diligence or loyalty to oath of office. Obviously Panganiban's kidnappers knew better than to believe he relied solely on his salary to get by in life.

Panganiban was released last weekend in a reasonably healthy state, suggesting either that his kidnappers were not the cutthroat types or they were satisfied with his family's response. The kidnappers originally demanded P100 million but settled, according to some newspaper reports, for P50 million. Panganiban's own version—after his family initially denied any kidnapping and later paying any ransom—was that he paid only P1.8 million in cash and P200,000 in jewelry. If true, then he missed his calling being with the DPWH. His bargaining skills could be better used dealing with the Abu Sayyaf.

Panganiban's captors have released him, but I don't know why we should. Certainly, I don't know why the Ombudsman should. Here is one case at least where the kidnappers have done their country a favor by showing that they are merely in the business of loot-sharing and not loot-getting. Now I know why the South Road never gets to look like a road but only like south of the border. I don't know that it will be a comfort to think, next time I pass there, that kidnappers are holding on to part of the money that should go to filling the holes and cracks that abound there.

While at this, I don't know why Ms Macapagal should wish to hang, or poison, kidnappers. They would be more useful being employed in any government agency tasked with ferreting out the corrupt and ungodly.

* * *

Comments are welcome dequiros@vasia.com.

Unfocused priorities

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

TEN months into the installation of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the country has been rocked by political instability that has prevented it from concentrating its attention on its most important challenge—economic recovery.

Although we have a President whose strength lies in her economic expertise, her administration has been buffeted by scandal-mongering centering mainly on the behavior of her husband, Mike Arroyo, and coup-mongering. Following the economic shock on the global economy from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, the concern of most Southeast Asian economies is to blunt the impact of the economic downturn.

Most Asean countries have maintained political stability and are therefore in a position to focus on efforts to weather the economic storm, what with Asia and the West unlikely to stage a rebound until late 2002.

Indonesia had a change in government only a few months ago after being engulfed by the crisis of the ineffectual government of President Abdurrahman Wahid. The election of President Megawati Sukarnoputri by the People's Consultative Assembly, invested her with a legitimacy that ended months of political turbulence that had dragged the Indonesian economy to the pits.

In the recent parliamentary elections in Thailand, the controversial Thaksin Shinawatra was elected prime minister amid charges that he lied on his wealth. But Thailand put the scandal behind her to refocus its priority on economic recovery. The economic shock from the Sept. 11 attacks was the second economic disaster that hit Asean economies since 1997 and the rest of Asia put politics behind the economy to enable them to recover from the new crisis.

Not in the Philippines. Rather than fortifying ourselves against the new economic storm, the Filipinos turned their attention and their energy to their favorite pastime—the primacy of politics over the economy. Philippine democracy puts emphasis on adversarial politics, leading to gridlock and paralysis. While it is the job of the opposition to criticize and search for fault in the government, in order to keep the government on its toes, scandal-mongering is not part of the social pact governing the relationship between the government and the opposition.

The scandals raised against Arroyo are not backed by the evidence that Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson unloaded on deposed President Estrada. The opposition is trying hard to squeeze every bit of juice to turn it into bile from the allegations of wrongdoing against Arroyo. If the opposition is accused of losing its sense of priority and proportion, the perception of President Macapagal is that she is already politicking to gain advantage in the 2004 presidential election and her decisions, including her appointments, including those of political ambassadors in the foreign services, are driven by the political spoils system and horse-trading.

In all of Southeast Asia, the only country that is swept today by coup rumors is the Philippines. It is less important to determine the source of the coup rumors. What is more important is that these rumors are symptoms of the lingering doubt over the constitutional legitimacy of President Macapagal. Many in the opposition, most of all former President Estrada, have not accepted the legitimacy of her administration, even though the most respected institution of the country, the Supreme Court, has overwhelmingly (13-0) ruled that her takeover from Estrada was constitutional and legitimate. Because of the refusal by many in the opposition and of Estrada's followers to recognize the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration, they have not missed any opportunity to rock the boat of political stability.

If priorities are not rearranged so that the economy receives focus while downgrading scandals (rather than making them the all-consuming passion of our political life), the Philippines is likely to emerge from this global crisis as the most badly mauled nation economically in Southeast Asia. The investigations in the Senate have eaten up most of its time during the past six months. Since Congress began, there has not been forged a legislative-executive agenda.

The character of criticism leveled at the President borders on the trivial. For example, the press and some opposition leaders are taken aback at the explosive temper of the President. Some say her fits of temper are unpresidential. But let's not forget President Manual L. Quezon whose volcanic temper was legend. President Fidel Ramos had a short fuse. President Macapagal's temper flares when she is asked stupid questions by the press and when she finds her Cabinet members are not doing their homework.

The coup rumors have made the President testy. The fact that coup rumors sporadically flare up despite the transition to democracy legitimized by our Supreme Court, suggests that our political institutions are weak and unable to provide a strong foundation for our democracy. I believe that the testiness of President Macapagal over coup rumors stems from the fact that her administration is worried over the Supreme Court's decision on the constitutionality of the plunder law. A number of administration officials and some leaders of Congress think that if the law is overturned, the government would face political problems.

If the law is struck down, the cases against Estrada with the Sandigahbayan would be weakened and, in any case, he could be free on bail. Estrada on bail would allow him to resume political agitation, stirring up the grievances of the poor against the administration. If it is true that soldiers are being recruited for alleged coup or destabilization plots, this recruitment is being driven by the uncertainty over the Supreme Court's decision on the plunder law. An adverse decision for the government provides an opportunity for fishing in troubled waters.

Threats and opportunities in GenSan

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WITH AN ANNUAL population growth rate of 5.3 percent, General Santos City is the fastest growing city in the country. Much of the growth has been fueled by in-migration, drawing people from all over the country attracted to the rich possibilities in this "boom city." Among the lures: deep-sea fishing and fish port businesses, employment in the canning factories, burgeoning commercial and agribusiness opportunities, and all sorts of enterprises to meet the many needs of a rapidly expanding population.

Among these needs are the carnal and ephemeral, leading to a similar "boom" in the sex and entertainment industry. Urbanization also brings its share of other social problems: criminality including drug use, family disintegration, violence against women and children, and increasing numbers of street children.

A city like GenSan exploding in terms of both population and progress stands on the crossroads. Unchecked and unplanned growth gives rise to social problems that threaten to veer out of control. But the early stages of growth also make it possible to put checks and intervention while there is still time and will to respond to the problem.

"I really feel bad when I hear people say there is nothing to be found in GenSan but tricycles and prostitutes," said Dr. Mely Lastimoso of the city's social hygiene clinic. But what health officials must do, she added, is not to deny the reality, but to seek the facts and get a realistic grasp of the situation, the better to head off impending crises.

* * *

ONE of the emerging challenges in GenSan is the high rate of sexually transmitted infections or STI's, including HIV/AIDS. This is a problem that surfaces anywhere there is a sex industry, but GenSan's population profile makes it particularly vulnerable. Many of the migrants to this boom city are young single women, drawn to the employment opportunities in the canning factories and other manufacturing concerns. But the work is seasonal, so the women are forced to look for other sources of income in the off times. For some women, the alternative is often prostitution.

GenSan also plays host to thousands (estimated at 17,000) of deep-sea fishermen, as well as crewmembers of foreign vessels. They have given rise to a new "branch" of sex work, more popularly known as "*akyat barko* (ship climbing)," since it involves sex workers sailing out to where the ships are in the deep seas and using rope ladders to board the vessels.

A growing urban poor population also means a proliferation of street children, many of them involved in sex work as well.

To the credit of the local government, programs have been put in place to address the complex and inter-related causes of STI's, including HIV/AIDS. And it was to harness the involvement of key sectors, especially local legislators and the media, that the Mahintana Foundation sponsored an "STD/HIV/AIDS Orientation for Media and the LGU" in GenSan recently.

This columnist was the guest of Mahintana Foundation to speak on the role of media in STD/AIDS prevention, but the day's session was a learning process for me, too, on the many things that can be done to address this worrying challenge.

* * *

ONE of these measures is working with local authorities on policy advocacy, to ensure the passage of ordinances and the implementation of programs that would promote safe sex and prevent the rapid transmission of HIV.

Working with the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), a foreign NGO, as part of the AIDS Surveillance and Education Project (ASEP), the Mahintana Foundation successfully lobbied last year with the city mayor and council for the passage of an ordinance "promoting the prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases through the implementation of five policies."

These five policies include a policy on the use of condoms in sex establishments, mandatory AIDS/STD education for entertainers, upgrading health services for entertainers, reporting mechanisms between operators/owners of entertainment establishments and the city government, and a policy on the non-hiring of minors.

A document on "lessons learned" from the policy advocacy efforts in GenSan and Angeles also points out that LGU response is possible only if local officials acknowledge and understand that commercial sex exists in their city and "there is acknowledgment that it is impossible to completely eliminate commercial sex." Accepting that HIV/AIDS presents a real threat to the health of the community is also necessary before local officials are convinced to pass prevention legislation.

* * *

PLAYING a key role in opening the eyes of local officials to the realities of the commercial sex industry and the need to regulate its practices for the prevention of the spread of STI's and HIV/AIDS is the media.

But before the media can fulfill their role as information providers, persuaders on behavioral change, and advocates of the rights of people living with HIV, media professionals must themselves acknowledge the realities around them.

At the open forum, for instance, a member of the local media took Dr. Lastimoso to task for "allowing" a TV public affairs show host to interview teen-age female sex workers in GenSan, saying the show gave the city a bad name. "But that is the reality," Dr. Lastimoso replied, pointing out the need to create public support for her efforts and those of health authorities on HIV/AIDS prevention.

A radio reporter later asked my opinion about Dr. Lastimoso's refusal to reveal the personal details of a sex worker who had recently died of AIDS complications. "She should reveal where the person came from, because she might not have been infected with HIV in GenSan," he said.

I explained that it may not really matter where the woman had been infected, since all of us, not just those belonging to vulnerable groups, face the challenge of preventing HIV/AIDS wherever we are. GenSan may have its particular vulnerabilities, but anywhere where poverty, population growth and commercial sex exists is under threat of HIV/AIDS.

Rizal's prophetic essay on education

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

LAST weekend I found myself in Singapore invited to participate in a conference on Asian Interfaith Dialogue sponsored by the Research Center on Islamic and Malay Affairs (RIMA) and the World Bank Post Conflict Fund. When I accepted the invitation I wondered what a Filipino historian could contribute to a discussion on contemporary education, religion, development and social cohesion. When I found myself on a panel with the grandson of Rabindranath Tagore, I realized the need for some historical perspective from Asians who had thought of these problems long ago—Tagore in India at the beginning of the 20th century, Rizal in the Philippines in the late 19th century.

In an undated essay on education, "La Instruccion," whose manuscript is preserved in the Philippine National Library, Jose Rizal presented a critique on primary instruction in the Philippines during the late 19th century and provided suggestions for its improvement. Before taking further studies in Manila and Europe, Rizal was taught by his mother, private tutors and a small private school in Biñan, thus his essay was based on personal experience and observation. His essay was a reaction to foreigners who visited the Philippines, wrote about their travels and concluded that Filipinos were backward and indolent. Rizal replied by explaining that these traits were symptoms rather than the actual disease and that the root cause of backwardness and indolence is poor education.

Rizal argued that due to an overemphasis on religion (here meaning Roman Catholicism which was the official religion of the Spanish Philippines), instruction by rote, and other factors, students were not encouraged to think critically or understand what was being taught. Furthermore, Rizal noted that there was no common language in the Philippines of his time, no common medium of instruction. Although Spanish was the official language and repeated decrees from Spain mandated its teaching, it was not taught well (if at all) leading students to parrot their lessons without actually understanding what they were saying. If Spanish would not be allowed as a medium of instruction, then Rizal favored the use of Philippine languages for textbooks and instruction. Using Philippine languages, according to Rizal, would make education penetrate all the way from the elite down to the grass roots.

Due to this essay and references to education in his many writings, it has become standard to quote Rizal on the importance of education as a solution to the country's problems and to see "the youth as the fair hope of the motherland." In "La Instruccion" Rizal wrote:

"...Instead of novenae...and mysteries that serve neither to foment or awaken faith nor to make one a Christian in the true meaning of the word, if it is desired to make of him not the friend of praying and murmuring words without reflecting on them or believing in them, but the man who believes, works and loves his fellowmen; instead of these textbooks, we repeat, could they not give to the child simple books on morals, on the geography and history of the Philippines and above all a good treatise on agriculture but written in the language he speaks, since the immense majority of the people are engaged in working and cultivating the soil and raising cattle, inasmuch as the country is very suitable for these?

"...This modest and almost rudimentary education would be enough to awaken in the pupils ideas of education and progress, and the people, the rulers and even religion would gain much, for thus would disappear superstition, routine, crass ignorance and certain customs which would be immoral were they not the offspring of extreme innocence and candor. There are books on true and sane morals as well as little compendiums of history and geography and treatises on agriculture adapted to the country. What does it cost to translate them and disseminate them in the public schools for those unfortunate children who cannot go to better schools in order to get a more useful education?

"Let us cease to be empirical and routinary. Let us learn to progress. Let us seek the direct good, for life is short and the mission of man is great. Let everyone fulfill his duties and obligations in the sphere in which he lives, not only for the sake of complying with and not failing the mandate, but to do good and to help in the common task of suffering and progressive humanity."

One reads these century-old words and much of it holds true in the 21st-century Philippines, leading some to see Rizal as a prophet. After we marvel that he was able to see present educational concerns over a century ago, shouldn't Rizal's words sting? Shouldn't Rizal's continuing relevance in many aspects of Philippine life underscore the fact the Philippines and the Filipinos have not changed much in a hundred years? Instead of this being a case of history repeating itself, should Filipinos actually learn that it is they who repeat history? But then heroes should inspire rather than depress the people. The worst part of it all is that Rizal is a voice sought and appreciated abroad but neglected and ignored at home.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph.

Pakistan's Musharraf: Moderator of war vs terror

"Oh Gods, from the venom of the cobra, the teeth of the tiger, and the vengeance of the Afghan—deliver us."
—An old Hindu saying

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M. Morales

THE KEY actor who appears to be carrying well the weight of the US-led war against terrorism is neither US President Greorge W. Bush or British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Definitely, the honor will be more inappropriate for al-Qaida head Osama bin Laden who is now being pursued like a fair game of prey by the United States and its allies. Despite his messianic, millennial looks, Bin Laden is an enigma to the modern world, a subject condemned by the victims of his alleged widespread terroristic tentacles.

Instead, the distinction of the hour belongs to Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf, an Indian-born Pakistani general. His action and statement on the day after the US armed might attacked the three cities—Kabul, Kendahar and Jalalabad—in Afghanistan were an exercise in foresight, temperance and faith. These are the virtues that a terror-devastated world needs these days. It is Pakistan's leadership, the most strategic ally of the United States in its battle against terrorism now that approximates the model.

President Bush was rather emotional in his order to attack al-Qaida terrorist training camps and Taliban base of operations. He spelled out in unequivocal terms that the attack of the United States and Great Britain was meant to disrupt the use of Afghanistan as a terrorist base of operation and destroy the military capability of the Taliban regime. He further expressed the United States' resolve (re-echoed by Blair) to ferret out Bin Laden, dead or alive, and his supporters wherever they hide—in deep caves or mountain heights.

To Bush who is leading the crusade in what he declares as the world's defense of freedom, the choice is very clear. He has consistently resisted the framing of the US military action in the West versus Islam paradigm. The dilemma however is that the US anti-terror rhetoric is comprehensive enough to even encompass Bin Laden and the Taliban's struggle to be free to keep their faith in the face of what they perceive as chronic warmongering from the infidels of the West. The call for freedom from the United States as it battles terrorism may even be seen as incongruous when we associate freedom with the terms of the 19th-century liberalism—right to life, liberty, property and happiness. Many suspect that Bin Laden and the Taliban regime don't see the integrity of their cause couched in that manner. The United States freezing the assets of the members of terrorist networks may have very little effect in the face of such holders of extremely ascetic and sacrificial ideology. By explicitly stating the war in terms of freedom as the West understands it, Bush and his advisers fall into the exact pit where Bin Laden likes to take them—the clash of cultures—freedom versus self-surrender—and where capabilities don't match.

Strategy-wise this will not even ensure moderate converts from the Islamic world unless something more distinctive and creative becomes part of the West's philosophy against the "terrorists." But that is a verbal cul-de-sac for Bush and his allies. The boomerang effect of the word "terrorism" in the face of US actions now in Afghanistan remains.

This is where Pakistan's Musharraf cuts a statesmanlike figure. Being in the center of the political and ideological whirlpool, he is a stabilizing presence, not combative or disruptive as the main protagonists are. It is no easy role considering the millions of Afghan refugees who are already in Pakistan which is in the east and south borders of Afghanistan. Neither is it easy to quell the thousands of protesters of Pakistani Muslims sympathetic with the Taliban and Bin Laden's cause. One ace up Musharraf's sleeve is Pakistan's diplomatic recognition of the Taliban regime (together with Sudan and Saudi Arabia). Musharraf has indeed fitted for himself, perhaps unknowingly, a pivotal role in the global alliance against terrorism. He brings a sense of moderation in the last bastion of diplomacy in a situation where force and counterforce, attack and counterattack, and spiraling casualties regrettably become the order of international affairs. Watching him conduct the press conference after the US attack, brings a refreshing air of equanimity in an otherwise tense world where pride, anger and vindictiveness can easily overwhelm the victimized leaders and their citizenry. Bin Laden's mysterious and intriguing manifestations are just as disturbing as Bush's intransigence followed by Blair's rote "good neighbor policy." Musharraf's solicitude may yet save the day in battling enemies that no longer uphold the sanctity of human life or wince at losing lives if only to advance their zeal and particular faith.

Musharraf's recent statements bear this out—balancing the sense of urgency in US policies and giving Bin Laden and the Taliban regime the benefit of the doubt and a respectable way out. After condoling with the United States and its victims in the recent attacks, Pakistan shows its solidarity with the United States in sharing with the latter intelligence, air space and logistical support. His inability to persuade Bin Laden to come out into the open (with the Taliban's protection) led to Musharraf underscoring that the fight was against terrorist elements, and not meant to erode the unity and integrity of Afghanistan.

He warned that the oppositionist Northern Alliance must not take advantage of the situation. He encourages that attacks must be poised against specific targets and should not cause collateral damage. He hopes that military actions would be short and targeted and no attempt must be made to impose upon the civilian population or cause their destruction. Come to think of it, he is like a secretary of state, army general, religious advisor and social policy advocate rolled into one. Only that he happens to be president of Pakistan, a US ally most directly involved in containing terrorist powder keg.

Why Musharraf is able to do this is revealed only by a keen study of Afghan-Pakistan history whose peoples are ethnic relatives. The attraction of great powers to the area can explain why Britain had a long history of wars with the Afghan people throughout the 19th century and why the Russians keep coming back but only to face defeat. The Taliban regime's stringent policy on its women could have grown out of a historic desire for protectiveness against the foreign invaders who ravished the Afghan women in the past. This had enraged the Afghan men who vowed vengeance against Western interlopers. Afghan history embedded in its people the warrior psyche as the mujahideens in the Soviet war had shown. Whatever validity these morsels of history may have, Musharraf must have learned these in good measure. It would do very well for the United States and its Western allies to listen to what this Pakistan general and president will have to say in the coming days.

Natalia M.L.M. Morales is professor of Political Science and International Studies at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

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LETTERS

Oasis of competence on Avenida Rizal

IN THESE times of confusion and panic I found it necessary to write this letter so I could relate this personal experience.

My daughter was a recipient of that notorious envelope reportedly sent by The Economist on Oct. 11. We forgot all about the envelope until we heard about it on the news in GMA's "Saksi" on Oct.16.

We didn't even notice that the envelope we received had the names of George W. Bush, Bill Gates, Lee Kuan Yew, etc. on the blanks. But when it was pointed out in the news, my daughter and I ran to check and sure enough all the names that appeared in that envelope on "Saksi" were the exact names on the envelope sent to my daughter. Then, we panicked! What should we do? Who should we send the envelope to?

With a protective mask on and a pair of sterile gloves, we picked up the envelope and put it in a sealed plastic bag along with another letter from another company with a name starting with Harvard. We were informed by my cousin to call Noel Orosco at Tel. No. 749-3945 and make an appointment to submit the envelopes for testing at the Department of Health (she learned about this on TV). We then called Orosco who told us that the DOH was open 24 hours so we could bring the envelopes any time. He was very polite and calm with his instructions.

We brought the envelope to the DOH at 9:30 p.m. The building (Building 9), was the National Epidemiology Center inside the DOH compound. It was the only building with the lights on in the compound at that time. I pushed the door open and I found myself in a well-lit corridor, spic and span and practically spotless with a number of personnel bustling in and out of doors. I asked the very first person I met where we could submit the sealed envelopes. He didn't just answer me, he accompanied me to the end of the corridor where all envelopes in question were being submitted. On our way he gave me a short update on what had already transpired. He said many individuals have submitted the same envelope that I had with me. I was starting to recall what my sister had told me earlier that day, "The Economist is fond of marketing gimmicks." This must have been one of its most uncomfortable gimmicks in the midst of the anthrax scare, I thought silently to myself.

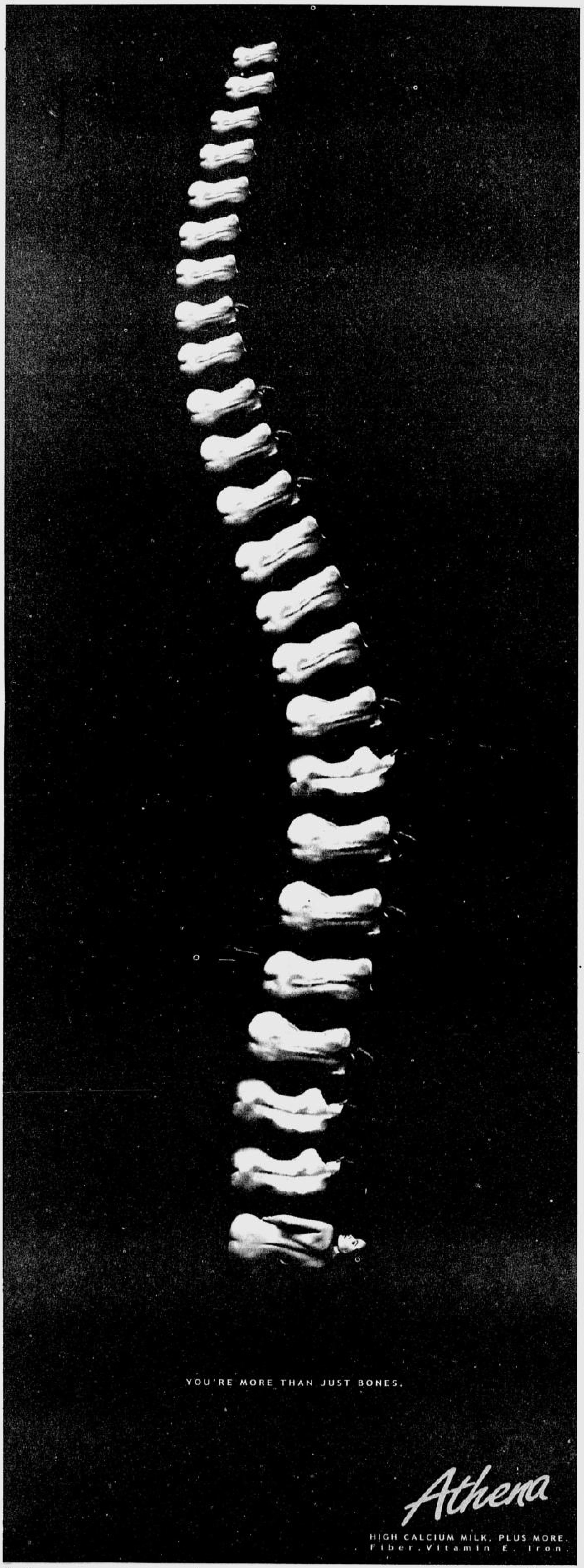
The man who accompanied me tried to tell me to be calm since results of other envelopes had already shown negative results for anthrax. Afterwards a lady gave me a form to fill up which contained questions about the envelope such as the name of the person submitting the object for testing, address and telephone number and the names of the people who had contact with the envelope, etc.

At such a late hour, one expected these people to be tired, grouchy and uncaring. But to my surprise, they were all so pleasant and helpful.

They were young, energetic nurses, laboratory technicians and other medical personnel so willing and prepared to help at all hours of the day! They were very polite. I have dealt with government employees many times in the past and my experience at the DOH was such a heartwarming one.

Another pleasant surprise was the place. It was so clean and spotless, without any nasty smell of dirt. The DOH compound is located in a very filthy area of Manila, in Avenida Rizal, which needs a lot of cleaning, better lighting and order in the flow of traffic. So, you can just imagine my surprise to find a clean place filled with medical personnel who are doing their job round-the-clock with no complaints. To top it all, Orosco was there working at that late hour. He was the one answering all the queries from nervous citizens and I presume it was his energy that powered his co-employees to do their job well!

I couldn't contain my feelings of appreciation for these hardworking and dedicated people. I am so proud of them and I feel assured that with competent people like them around, we need not panic even if bioterrorism is really in our midst.—**DOLLY ORENDAIN ESCOBAR, 278 El Grande Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City**



Asset in government service

I AM writing this letter to show my appreciation of the kind of government service that Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon renders to our country.

I saw the INQUIRER's Business section of Oct. 24 showing the energetic secretary bringing to the President Reese Bros., a big company which will put up a major call center facility in Subic. To me, this is the height of excellent government service! If only everyone in the government went out of their way to make an extra effort on matters that are not necessarily within their sphere of functions, then our dream of having a prosperous and livable country will soon be within our reach.

As a person who hails from that place, although I no longer reside there, I have been observing the kind of investments that have come in the past two years in Subic. And to me, this new investment that Gordon helped bring to Subic reminds me of the quality of investors that he used to invite and convince to set up in that place during his administration. I wish this will continue with the present administration.

Again, thanks for bringing us the good news and for not tiring in showing the work of the bearer of good news—the indefatigable Secretary Gordon—kudos to all of you!—**MARY RUTH PERLADA, 1513 Metrica St., Sampaloc, Manila**

ARMM bet is a Filipino citizen

PLEASE allow us to comment on the issue of the citizenship of Parouk Hussin, the administration candidate for governor for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

We know personally Hussin as a genuine revolutionary of known probity. He is a Filipino citizen, born in Jolo, Sulu, on June 2, 1944. In a ruling on Oct. 9, 2001, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo affirmed Hussin's Filipino citizenship to settle once and for all any doubts about his real citizenship. Contrary to the claims of certain quarters, Hussin carries a Philippine passport (No. DP 001413) issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Hussin went on self-exile in the 1970s to escape the Marcos dictatorship. He was then chair of the MNLF Foreign Affairs Commission. His case was no different from those of other exiled Filipino leaders like former President Aquino and Senators Ninoy Aquino, Jovito Salonga, Raul Manglapus, Heherson Alvarez and John Osmeña.

Hussin applied for political asylum in Sweden upon the recommendation of the regional office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR). He was given travel documents by the Swedish government but he never renounced his Filipino citizenship as the Swedish Immigration Board did not require him to do so.

Hussin, together with other Moro National Liberation Front cadres, returned to the country after the MNLF signed a peace agreement with the government in 1992. In 1997, he was appointed presidential adviser on Muslim Mindanao affairs by President Ramos. He was named to the same post by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo earlier this year.

We hope the candidates in the coming ARMM election will focus on issues and on their platforms of government. Enough of character assassination and black propaganda.—**HALIM ABUBAKAR, former RP consul, Phase 3, BF Homes, Sucat, Parañaque City; TIMOTEO ARANJUEZ, chair, Congress of Labor Organizations**

Building evacuation measures needed

I'M not an engineer but I have a fascination with skyscrapers and different agricultural designs. As I saw the great twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York collapse, a question rose in my mind: What if our buildings in Makati or Ortigas were bombed or a fire broke out? I'm not saying this to frighten people. But In our country we have a not so reliable fire and rescue agency, maybe due to the low priority it is given in the national budget allocations.

Imagine a 30-level building having at least 30 people per floor. In case of an evacuation, what are we going to do? Our answer would be to calmly go to the fire exit shaft.

Usually we have at least two fire exit shaft in such tall buildings. But does it have an air pressure system to prevent smoke coming in? If we can remember, the majority of Manor Hotel victims died from suffocation, and to think that that building was only five stories high.

But the biggest problem is the evacuation capacity standards expected of fire exits in buildings here. To illustrate: In a 30-story building with at least 30 people on each floor, the volume of people increases on the lower floors so that by the 11th floor there will be at least 600 people evacuating. If the building has two fire exit shafts, there would be an average of 300 persons going down the shaft.

In modern countries and even in neighboring countries, their building code requires a compartmentalized fire safety room as a rule. At a certain level or floor there will be a room which is fireproof, smoke-proof and durable where the evacuees may stay until the rescuers arrive.

I think it's about time to adopt such a feature for buildings of a predetermined height to avoid loss of lives in the future.—**EUGIE V. DELA CRUZ, chair and executive director, Genuine Youth Movement for Advancement and Outreach Inc., Las Piñas City**

Oreta had nothing to do with Ople's CA questions

THIS refers to the Oct. 19 column of Amando Doronila in which he gave the impression that Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta had something to do with Sen. Blas Ople's line of questioning during the Oct. 17 committee hearing of the Commission on Appointments (CA) on the appointment of Jose Isidro Camacho as finance secretary.

It is impossible for Oreta to influence a legislator of Ople's stature and cue him on what he should say. Oreta had nothing to do with the questions Ople asked Camacho during the CA hearing. In fact, Oreta was surprised when Ople asked about the "poster" episode because she had already forgotten about it.

Oreta is waiting for the opportunity to question Camacho. But her main concern is to determine whether the Department of Finance, under Camacho's watch, has adequate programs in place to bridge the budget deficit without derailing the government's priority programs and to stimulate the economy in the face of a looming global recession.—**TERESITA S. CASTILLO, chief of staff, Office of Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Senate, Rm. 516, GSIS Bldg., Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City**

Adding insult to injury

THE HULLABALOO about the cut in free text messaging by Globe Telecommunications and Smart Communications has sidetracked the people's attention from the real issue: the poor delivery of service by the so-called "Big Two."

Perhaps the cut in free text messaging would have been acceptable to the subscribers if only Globe and Smart were able to satisfy the requirements of their subscribers who now reach almost 10 million. But since their performance leaves much to be desired, cutting their free text messaging service only added insult to injury.

It is time to renew calls for these two telecom giants to shape up or face the wrath again of exasperated subscribers. They have been bleeding their subscribers dry and now is the moment to give these people the kind of service that they truly deserve.—**SHERYL S. ATENDIDO, 10 Evangelista St., BF Homes, Parañaque City**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Anthrax spreads to more federal buildings in US

WASHINGTON—The trail of anthrax has widened to more federal buildings here, as a woman in New Jersey contracted skin anthrax and a hospital worker in New York was in serious condition with suspected inhalation anthrax.

Traces of anthrax were found Monday at the US Supreme Court, the State Department, and at a building housing the Health and Human Services and the government-owned Voice of America.

Results of tests over the weekend found traces of anthrax in the mailroom at the main Supreme Court building in Washington.

The Supreme Court justices met at a US district court in the capital, and the main building will remain closed on Tuesday.

Also Monday, State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said the building he works in had become tainted in the bioterror attack, which so far has killed three people.

He said trace amounts of anthrax were discovered in several sites in the seat of US diplomacy as well as in a diplomatic pouch sent to Peru.

The department was decontaminating all its mail facilities in the United States and in more than 260 US diplomatic missions around the world, he said.

However, Boucher stressed that while tests at the headquarters were not complete, the building's ventilation system had tested negative for anthrax and that employees would not be evacuated.

"As far as we know nothing's spread beyond mailrooms," he said.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson announced that traces of anthrax had also been detected at the Cohen Building, which houses his own department and the headquarters of the Voice of America radio station.

"All the individuals in the mailroom are on antibiotics," he said.

The new discoveries add to a growing list of US federal facilities contaminated in an anthrax scare. *AFP*

A PAKISTANI volunteer wanting to join the Taliban in a holy war against the US and its allies carries his weapon in the Bajaur tribal area bordering Afghanistan Oct. 28. REUTERS

Saddam's son says US will attack Iraq in November

BAGDAD—Iraq will be attacked by the United States in the coming weeks, President Saddam Hussein's elder son Uday wrote in a front-page article published yesterday.

"The Americans are going to suspend their operations in Afghanistan with the onset of winter and carry out a new aggression against Iraq before Ramadan," the Muslim fasting month which starts in the middle of November, he said.

"In case of failure in Iraq, the Americans will resume their operations in Afghanistan at the end of winter," Uday added in his daily newspaper Babel, under the known pen-name of Abdullah Mohammad Al-Saqr.

"The Americans can use various pretexts including anthrax to blame Iraq," he said, referring to the bioterrorism campaign in the United States in a long analysis.

US President George W. Bush, "will try to settle the accounts of his father and achieve what he could not achieve against Iraq," during the 1991 Gulf War. A US-led coalition quickly evicted Iraqi forces from Kuwait but left Saddam in power in Baghdad.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz told a British Sunday newspaper that the United States and Britain planned to launch 1,000 missiles at 300 Iraqi targets in a bid to topple Saddam under the pretext of waging war on terrorism.

But British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw dismissed the claim. *AFP*

Saudi minister warns citizens may leave US

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia will tell its citizens to quit the United States if harassment against them, which started after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, continues, the interior minister was quoted as saying yesterday.

"The kingdom is working to put an end to this matter (harassment), and we hope it will end," Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz said, quoted by the official SPA news agency.

"But if it continues, we would certainly tell our citizens to come home, or search for another place. But we hope it won't continue," he said.

Scores of Saudi students, hospital patients and workers who returned to the kingdom following the terror attacks have spoken of harassment, maltreatment and humiliation from both the US authorities and the public.

"We were subjected to tremendous pressure and close searches, especially while flying between states," said Abdullah Qattan, a student, who returned on Saturday.

"They even used police dogs to search our luggage, and for body searches, while they paid no great attention in searching other nationals. We felt very humiliated," said Qattan.

The interior ministry meanwhile set up a hotline to answer queries from families of Saudis detained in United States.

More than 100 Saudis were taken in for questioning over the terror attacks which Washington blamed on Saudi-born Osama bin Laden. Only 12 of them remain in US custody, officials say.

Several of the 19 presumed hijackers in the unprecedented jetliner suicide bombings in the United States which killed more than 5,000 people carried Egyptian or Saudi passports.

Prince Nayef also denied that Riyadh has arrested people linked to the terror attacks on New York and Washington.

"We have neither arrested nor detained any person who is proven to have taken part in the Sept. 11 terror attacks," Prince Nayef said. "If we get any proof, we will arrest them and they will be subjected to the kingdom's law," he added.

But a number of Saudis were still detained as suspects in the United States, he admitted.

Last week the powerful minister said a small number of Saudis suspected of sympathizing with Bin Laden had been detained. And he warned others that they would be "amputated"—just like "a sick organ in a body,"

According to a London-based spokesperson for the Saudi opposition, authorities in the kingdom have rounded up hundreds of young men for questioning since Sept. 11, but most were subsequently released. *AFP*

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Israel refuses to quit more towns

JERUSALEM—Israeli tanks, armor and troops held on to Palestinian-ruled areas in the northern West Bank on Tuesday, despite pressure from Israel's closest ally, the United States, for an immediate withdrawal.

Washington said it was encouraged by Israel's pullout on Monday from Bethlehem—revered as the birthplace of Jesus—and nearby Beit Jala where some of the fiercest fighting has taken place since Israel's offensive began almost two weeks ago.

But the United States renewed its call for Israel to withdraw forces from other Palestinian-ruled West Bank areas taken after Palestinian militants assassinated a far-right Cabinet minister on Oct. 17.

"We want to see this (withdrawal) begin, continue on a day-to-day basis. We want to see it go through . . . immediately," State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said in Washington.

The United States wants calm between Israel and the Palestinians so that it can pursue its military campaign in Afghanistan without complaints from Arab and Muslim countries.

Israeli officials said they had no intention of carrying out further withdrawals from areas in and around the West Bank cities of Ramallah, Jenin, Tulkarm and Qalqiliya until Palestinian President Yasser Arafat started "fighting terror."

"The moment we see they (the Palestinian Authority) are carrying out arrests and stopping terror attacks, we will leave. We have no desire to stay there," Israeli Defense Ministry spokesperson Yarden Vatikay said.

Top level security talks aimed at facilitating a pullout ended in failure on Monday night, Israeli and Palestinian officials said.

"It seems the Israeli side has a political position not to withdraw from the Palestinian cities," said Palestinian security official Haj Ismael Jaber. "Nothing was new in the meeting."

Washington also called on Arafat to arrest militants. The Palestinian leader is in Rome for a meeting with Pope John Paul and talks with senior Italian officials on Tuesday.

With relations between Israel and its guardian ally strained as the United States tries to marshal Arab support for its anti-terror coalition, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told US officials he might postpone a visit to Washington next month.

Israeli officials scoffed at suggestions Washington was strong-arming the Jewish state to end its military operation.

"There is no pressure," said Sharon's aide Raanan Gissin. "We will withdraw not because of American pressure but only when the Palestinians comply."

Israel's fierce military offensive following the killing of Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi has drawn the strongest US criticism since Sharon took office last year.

Gissin denied Sharon's trip was being put on ice because of problems in Israel-U.S. relations and said the mooted cancellation was due to "the security situation".

But by cancelling, Sharon would sidestep a potentially acrimonious meeting with President George Bush whom he is tentatively due to meet on November 11.

At least 680 Palestinians and 182 Israelis have been killed since a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation erupted in September 2000 after a deadlock in peace negotiations.

At the United Nations, a U.N. human rights investigator pressed Israel to accept peacekeepers in the Middle East, saying an international observer force would help end more than a year of Israeli-Palestinian violence. *Reuters*

'RECKLESS' FLYER REUTERS

A witch appears to have crashed into a power pole in Bottrel, about 50 km south of Calgary, Oct 28. One of the farmers played a Halloween trick by putting up the stuffed witch on the pole to make it look like she lost her direction and crashed.

Malaysia vows to be flexible on migrants

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia yesterday said it could be flexible on its plans to cut down on foreign labor in certain industries to free up jobs for its citizens affected by the economic slowdown.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said companies with export orders to fulfil might be allowed to keep their foreign workers a bit longer.

"If we are too harsh on the companies, then it will affect their production operations and it will be bad for them," Abdullah, who is also home (interior) minister, told reporters.

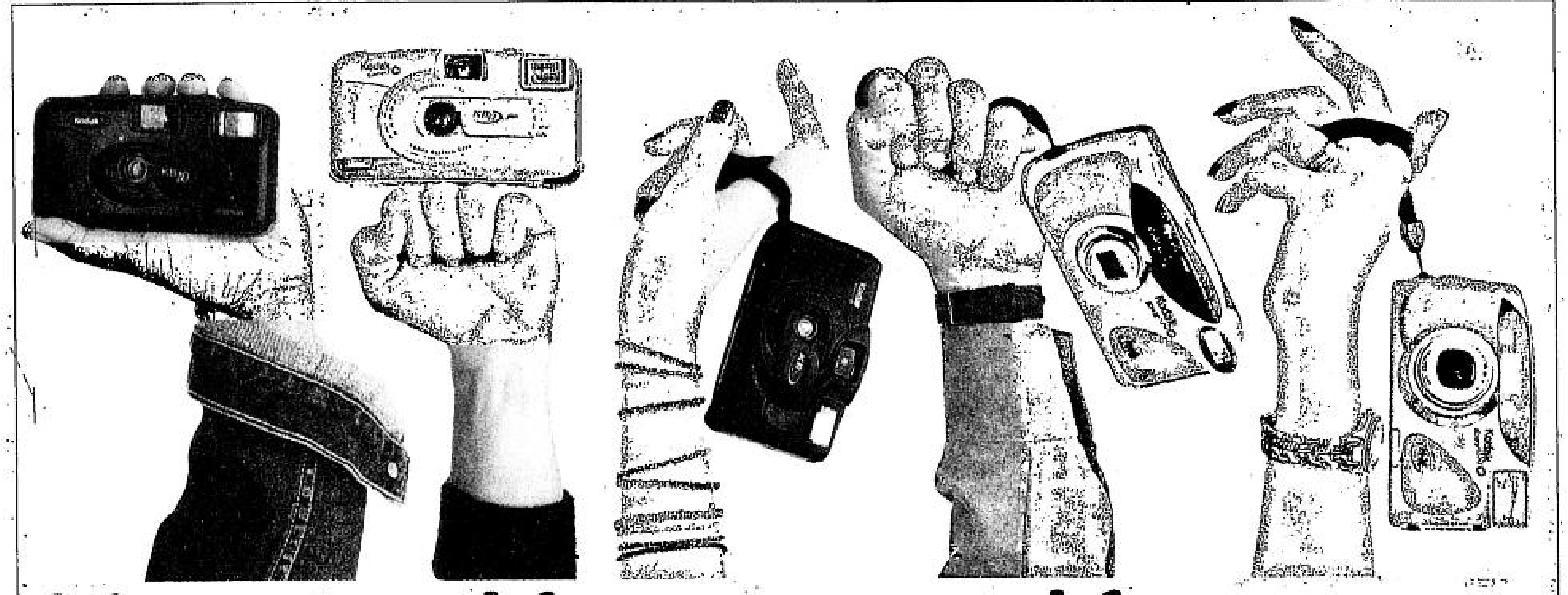
Under a new ruling the government will issue only three-year work permits, compared with six or seven years previously.

"I think the (three-year) duration is short enough," Abdullah said. "If we shorten further, then we will be creating a big turnover of foreign labor."

With the ruling, foreigners working on plantations, in manufacturing or construction, and who have been in Malaysia for three years or more, will be given up to three months to leave.

The government also announced at the weekend that it would begin deporting about 300,000 foreign workers next month.

A home ministry official yesterday said the 300,000 were found to have overstayed their permits. *Reuters*



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TELECOM

US officials cannot account for Soviet weapons' whereabouts

WASHINGTON—The United States has spent as much as $5 billion since 1991 to help secure the former Soviet Union's vast nuclear, chemical and nuclear arsenal, but US officials say they still can't account for all the weapons.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the United States should be very concerned that some of these Soviet weapons of mass destruction may have slipped into the wrong hands, said Sen. Dick Lugar, a Republican.

"That is the worst-case scenario," he said. "That is the one thing we must make certain did not happen."

Lugar co-authored legislation a decade ago that launched the US effort to safeguard the Soviet arsenal during the political, economic and social chaos that surrounded the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Since then, he said, roughly half the Soviet nuclear warheads have been destroyed.

Difficult

The secure disposal of the materials that those weapons use for nuclear explosions—plutonium and highly enriched uranium—is still difficult, he said, and the progress of securing the chemical and biological stockpiles has proceeded far more slowly than the destruction program.

The United States has upgraded security systems that cover about one-third of the almost 700 tons of weapons-grade nuclear material identified as at risk of theft or diversion from Russia, according to the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress.

Restrictions imposed by Russia have kept the US Department of Energy from installing security systems at about 100 buildings that contain hundreds of metric tons of nuclear material, according to a February GAO report. The report cites a wide-open gate at one Russian nuclear facility.

Ken Alibek, a former top scientist in the Soviet biological weapons program who came to the United States in 1992, said economically struggling Soviet weapons scientists pose the greatest threat.

Finding raw materials for biological weapons is easy because each country has its own pathogenic microorganisms, Alibek said, but such materials are worthless without the ability to transform them into weapons.

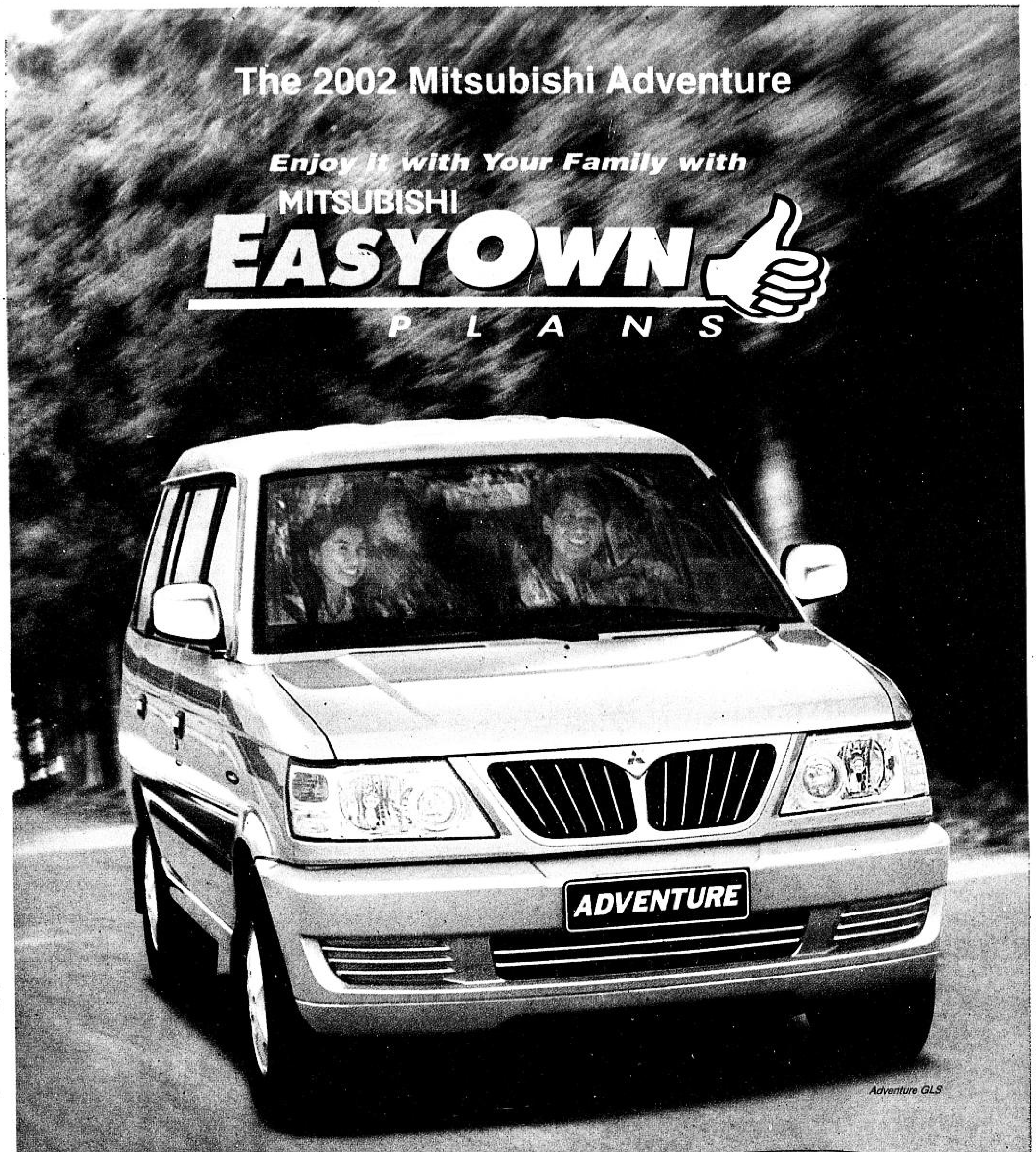
"In the field of biological weapons, the real threat is knowledge," he said.

Risks

The State and Defense departments have programs to put Soviet weapons scientists to work on beneficial research to reduce the risk they will be recruited by terrorists or smaller nations out to develop mass-destruction armaments.

Alibek said the money from those programs doesn't always go to the right people in the biological weapons area. Hundreds of bioweapons scientists have received not a penny.

In addition, he said, security remains lax at some Soviet facilities that work with deadly biological agents. *AP*



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GLS Gas M/T	710,000	**100,000**	28,444	20,423
Gas A/T	745,000	**100,000**	29,856	21,437
GLS Diesel M/T	725,000	**100,000**	29,049	20,858
Super Sport Diesel M/T	775,000	134,000	31,066	22,306
Super Sport Gas M/T	755,000	130,000	30,259	21,727
Gas A/T	795,000	138,000	31,873	22,886

*All Plans Subject to Bank Approval

Low Monthly Plan

Model	SRP	50% D/P	36 mos.	60 mos.
GLX Gas M/T	650,000	322,500	11,104	8,107
Diesel M/T	675,000	335,000	11,534	8,421
GLS Gas M/T	710,000	352,500	12,137	8,861
Gas A/T	745,000	370,000	12,739	9,301
GLS Diesel M/T	725,000	360,000	12,395	9,049
Super Sport Diesel M/T	775,000	385,000	13,256	9,678
Super Sport Gas M/T	755,000	375,000	12,911	9,426
Gas A/T	795,000	395,000	13,600	9,929

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In the first three quarters of the year

GSIS gains P9.84B in investment income

Pushes total assets to P201 billion

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), reaping the fruits of the operating and procedural changes introduced by president and general manager Winston F. Garcia, is registering a remarkable financial performance this year.

The pension fund's investment income for the first three quarters surged to P9.84 billion, 47% higher than that of the same period last year. Its total admitted asset is now P201.047 billion as against P183.67 billion before Garcia took over in February this year.

With these developments, experts predict that the GSIS will obtain a year-end net revenue of P32 billion, a phenomenal 60% increase from the P20 billion it earned last year.

The hike in revenue and asset levels were achieved despite the hefty increases in claims and benefits payments which rose to P15.290 billion as compared with P13.014 billion last year.

The highly-improved financial performance of the GSIS is apparently an off-shoot of the operating and procedural changes introduced by Garcia. The changes brought about a higher collection efficiency and zero default rate on salary and policy loans. Timely investments in high-yielding long-term government securities and a rationalized investments porftolio based on conservatism have made the GSIS liquid enough to package the following programs:

- P1billion pension loan program where a retiree can borrow up to three-month pension at 8 percent interest;
- P6 billion teacher's loan buy-out program where GSIS will purchase the high interest bearing loans (as much as 100% per annum) of public school teachers and charge only 12% interest for the same;
- P18 billion *Bahay Ko* program which is proving to be the most popular housing loan window in the country today.

GSIS members are now enjoying not only the most liberal benefits but also the fastest processing time where salary loans are granted within eight hours and housing loans and retirement claims in five days.

GSIS president and general manager Winston F. Garcia

Bonanza for pensioners

Pensioners are in for a lot of good things in the days to come. They will receive a Christmas bonus and pension increase and may opt to obtain a loan as high as their three-month pension.

Christmas Bonus

Government pensioners will get their Christmas cash gift starting December 15, 2001. The GSIS Board approved the allocation of P518M for the cash gift which is 22% higher than last year's P423.33M. The bonus is expected to benefit some 187,154 pensioners all over the country.

PGM Winston F. Garcia said that pensioners will receive their cash gift in time for Christmas. The cash gift is equivalent to their one month pension, but not higher than the maximum amount pegged by the GSIS.

Entitled to the bonus are pensioners under RA 8291, PD 1146 and RA 660 who are receiving their regular monthly pension and are still qualified to their corresponding pension as of December 31, 2001. Those who retired under RA 7699 (Portability Law) who are receiving their regular pro-rata pension and are still qualified as of December 31, 2001 are also entitled to the year-end benefit. Not entitled are deferred annuitants or retirees/survivors who received in advance their guaranteed pension in the form of lump sums and who shall be receiving their regular monthly pension after December 31, 2001.

Pension Loan

The Board earlier approved the grant of pension loans to Old-age and Disability pensioners. The Pension Loan Program was conceived by PGM Garcia who wanted to provide a loan window for pensioners who usually fall prey to loan sharks.

Under the program, qualified borrowers may avail of a maximum of three months the equivalent of their regular pension but not over P20,000. A low interest rate of 8% per annum is deducted from the proceeds of the loan which is payable in one year through automatic deduction from the monthly pension. The loan is renewable after full payment.

Fast becoming a popular source of immediate cash for pensioners, the program is also considered the best program for pensioners. The loan is processed in one hour or less. Mr. Simeon de la Cruz of Singalong, Manila was pleased with the fast processing time. " In less than one hour, *nakuha ko na ang tseke*. I will now be able to continue the repair of my house," he said.

Pension increase

Effective January 2002, disability and old-age/retirement pensioners will receive an unprecedented increase in pension ranging from 10% to a maximum of 25% depending on their year of retirement. The increase will be implemented on a graduated scale .

The System has appropriated an additional amount of P745.74M to cover for the increase and another P4.14 billion additional reserve requirement to ensure that pensioners will continue to enjoy the benefit in the years to come.

The GSIS Board saw the pension hike as necessary to enable pensioners to cope with the increasing cost of living. The GSIS has consistently granted a 10% increase in pension in the past fourteen years. With next year's graduated increase, the more senior pensioners stand to receive higher assistance from the GSIS.

The pension increase does not cover deferred annuitants or the retirees/survivors who received in advance their guaranteed pension in the form of lump sums and who shall be resuming their regular monthly pension after calendar year 2002. They shall only be entitled to the increase that will be granted after the expiration of their guaranteed period.

The GSIS will also grant a 10% increase in Basic Survivorship Pension.

Pensioners will get a bigger slice of the pie.

Increase in Pension
Effective January 2002

Year of Retirement	Percentage Rate of Increase	Maximum Amount of Increase*
1976 and earlier	25%	P3,150.00
1977 to 1983	20%	P2,520.00
1984 to 1989	15%	P1,890.00
1990 and later	10%	P1,260.00

*Does not apply to RA7699 pro-rata pension

State workers get 90% hike on policy dividends

Government workers are set to receive a 90% increase on GSIS regular policy dividends starting December 1.

This is the biggest single increase in dividend that the GSIS has ever granted in any given period.

The GSIS has allocated a total amount of P1.372 billion for dividend distribution this year, higher by P650 million from the P722 million released in year 2000.

If reckoned in terms of premium contributions, the dividend to be received by individual members this year is equivalent to 3.33 months of his premium. Thus, if deducted from 12 months, members ultimately shell out only 8.67 months of compulsory premium contributions for the year, a benefit which no other insurance company in the world accord to policy holders. The GSIS is, in fact, the only social insurance agency in the world that declares dividends on policies it issues.

Holders of GSIS Optional Life policies will also get a 10% increase in dividends. The GSIS is declaring a total of P238 million for optional life policies compared to only P217 million last year. Overall, the GSIS is set to release a total of P1.710 billion for dividends to be distributed to members in 2001.

GSIS launches interactive website

Do you want to know how much retirement pay you will receive when you leave government service? Or how much monthly amortization will be deducted from your salary if you avail of a three- or five- or eight-month salary loan?

Just log on to: www.gsis.gov.ph - the cyber door to the GSIS and presto! you get all these and more.

The GSIS recently launched its interactive website. Done in collaboration with Adroit Innovations, Philippines, Inc., the new website boasts of almost interactive features. It provides information on the GSIS corporate profile as well as its benefits and services.

The new website allows members to compute the amount of their retirement benefits, salary and pension loans through the use of a loan calculator. In the case of retirement benefits under RA 8291, for example, a member has only to input his date of retirement, years of service and average monthly compensation (AMC) to get the approximate value of his lump-sum and monthly pension. To see how much salary loan they will receive and how much monthly installments they will pay for the term of their loan, members need only to key- in their basic monthly salary and the loan term they wish to avail of.

The site also offers pertinent information on Survivorship Benefits – a must for all survivors and beneficiaries of government employees. A detailed presentation on employee compensation, disability and separation benefits is also available.

Among the exciting pages of the site are those on the *Bahay Ko* program. Members will have a closer view of the 12 house designs with the corresponding floor plans, loanable amount and the monthly amortization on the loan, including a list of requirements that a borrower must submit.

Downloadable application forms on salary and policy loan programs may be printed by the browsers from the site. Those who wish to get instant answers to the most frequently asked questions have only to click on FAQs.

"The new website is fast and easy to navigate. The features will enable our members to access the information they want from the GSIS wherever they are," according to PGM Garcia.

Bahay Ko: A huge success

***Bahay Ko*, the unique and affordable GSIS direct housing loan program which comes with a free house design and plan, is fast gaining popularity among GSIS members especially those in the provinces.**

Close to 10,000 members nationwide have signified their intention to avail of the program.

Bahay Ko is a revolutionary concept which is primarily intended to benefit the typical government employee in the province who usually owns a piece of land.

The pension fund earmarked a hefty P18 billion fund for *Bahay Ko* in line with the presidential directive to alleviate the housing backlog nationwide.

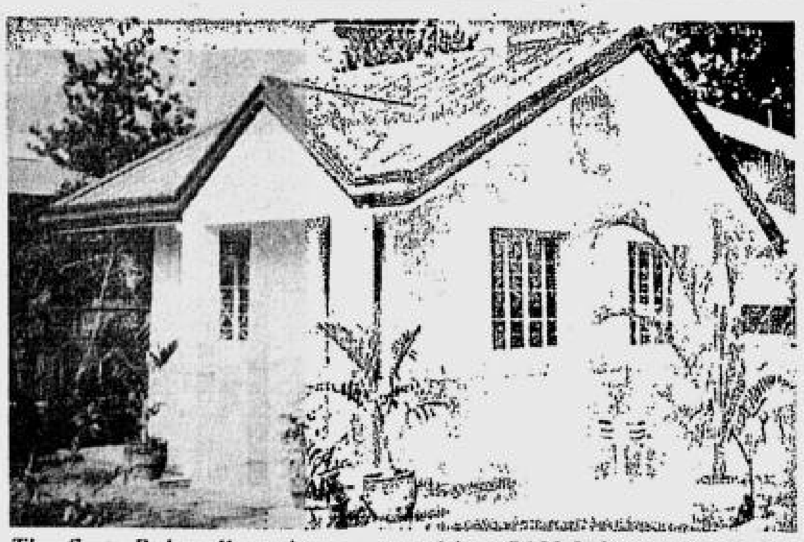
Bahay Ko is considered a breakthrough in the history of low-cost housing. Under the program, an availing member is given a free house design and plan including the bill of materials. He will then be made to choose from 12 original house designs grouped according to price: P150,000; P250,000; P350,000; and P450,000. The house designs were selected by the cream of the crop in the housing industry from among 200 entries submitted by top architects in the country.

Applicants to the program are entertained on a first come-first-served basis. Qualified to avail of the program are permanent employees; casual and contractual workers (who have rendered five years of continuous government service); and elective officials (who are willing to issue post-dated checks for the remaining amount of their loan after the expiration of their term of office).

In addition, prospective borrowers should:

- have not been previously granted a GSIS housing loan
- have no pending administrative and/or criminal case
- have not been co-maker of an outstanding GSIS housing loan; and,
- have no arrearage in their social insurance premiums.

The loan shall be used for constructing a house on a lot owned by the borrower; purchase of a lot and construction of a house therein; or construction of a house on a lot with outstanding balance.



The first Bahay Ko unit constructed is a P150,000 model built in General Santos City.

5 GSIS district offices in MM

To make GSIS services more accessible to its members, the pension fund is setting up five district offices in Metro Manila.

The GSIS district offices of Bulacan, Cavite, Las Pinas, Marikina and Caloocan will be opened within the year. Similarly, 120 district offices which will replace the 78 GSIS service desk shall be established across the nation.

Unlike the service desk which only operates twice a month, the GSIS district office shall be fully-complemented and shall be open to the public daily. It shall serve as the extension of the GSIS headquarters in issuing regular and optional policies, granting salary and policy loans and processing social insurance and optional life insurance claim applications.

The Bulacan District Office which shall hold office at the Provincial Capitol Compound in Malolos shall serve 18,718 members working in the province of Bulacan. On the other hand, a total of 14,569 members working in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela shall be serviced by the Caloocan District Office. Cavite District Office shall cover 19,570 state workers in Cavite. A total of 11,188 government employees in Las Piñas, Paranaque, Muntinlupa and Bacoor shall transact business with the Las Pinas District Office while Marikina District Office shall have for its clients members working in Marikina, Cainta, Rodriguez, San Mateo, Antipolo, Tanay, Teresa, Morong, Angono, Binangonan and Cardona.

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Misuari drawn to pact with MILF

SULTAN KUDARAT, Maguindanao—Officials of the Misuari-led faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) entered into an agreement with senior leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) here on Saturday in pursuit of efforts to solve the so-called Bangsamoro problem in Mindanao.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said the meeting was primarily aimed at strengthening unity and cooperation between and among Moro rebels fighting for self-determination in the southern Philippines.

"It's an understanding between brothers, that we have to unite because we are both working for the welfare of our people," Jaafar said.

During the four-hour meeting with Sammy Labawan, MNLF vice chair and emissary of MNLF chair Nur Misuari, Jaafar said that both sides agreed to hold continuing dialogues and meetings to discuss the issues surrounding the Moro struggle for self-determination.

"The meeting produced an understanding and cooperation that will hasten the solution of the decades-old problem in Mindanao," lawyer Randolph Parcasio, administrator of the Southern Philippines Development Authority and one of Misuari's top lieutenants, said.

But Parcasio immediately clarified that the unification "does not necessarily mean (the) joining of (the) armed forces of the MILF and MNLF."

Jaafar also made a similar statement.

Two years ago, Misuari and his former deputy Salamat Hashim, now MILF chair, met at the Salamat's hideout in Maguindanao. Both agreed to join hands for the welfare of the Bangsamoro people.

Analysts said Misuari's renewed interest to renew ties with the MILF could be due to his recent ouster as MNLF chair and the government's apparent rejection of his continued stay in power as ARMM governor.

Although senior leaders of the MNLF booted him out, Misuari is still being recognized by a number of MNLF members as their chairman.

As this developed, Parcasio said Misuari was preparing a 60-page report on the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF signed during the administration of former President Fidel Ramos.

Parcasio would not give details on the report but hinted that the recently concluded plebiscite for the expansion of the ARMM would be included.

Misuari has maintained that Malacañang violated the peace accord when it administered the Aug. 14 plebiscite.

The agreement has led to the election of Misuari as ARMM governor and his appointment as chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development.

Critics of Misuari said he failed dismally in his role as ARMM governor and SPCPD chair despite the billions of pesos in funds that the national government gave to the autonomous region.

The MNLF waged war for independence in the 1980s. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MISUARI

Land mines scourge of Mindanao folk

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A human rights group helping in the rehabilitation of war refugees is asking the government to clear of land mines the war-affected villages in Central Mindanao.

Balay Inc. in the Central Mindanao area aired the appeal following separate incidents of land mine explosions that killed five persons in Barangay Tiba, Matanog town in Maguindanao.

The land mines were believed planted by retreating Moro rebels during the height of the Estrada administration's all-out war last year against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Evacuees from the villages of Sarakan, Sapal, Sarmiento, Tiba, Langkong and Minantao, all in Matanog, Maguindanao, refused to go back home because of fears of land mine explosions, the human rights group claimed.

Balay Inc. found during its investigation conducted in Barangay Tiba on Oct. 26 and 27 that a certain Kamad, a 40-year-old farmer, was injured in June while gathering coconuts when a land mine exploded.

Not long after that, four persons from the same area were wounded when another land mine exploded while they were clearing their farm.

The victims were identified as Mando Paro, 40; Asim Sarigon, Mukamad Sarigan and his 11-year-old son Nasrudin.

Balay Inc. representative Raysule Debarosan said the military should dispatch members of its explosive and ordnance disposal unit to clear the area.

Unless this is done, evacuees, particularly from Dawah Center in Crossing Simuay in Sultan Kudarat town, Maguindanao would remain hesitant to return home, the group said.

Hundreds of war refugees are also temporarily residing along the Narciso Ramos Highway.

The military prohibited them from going beyond the one-kilometer distance from the highway, as they might step on land mines.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Slow pace of probe of Chan murder hit

VIGAN CITY—Anti-crime crusaders here assailed investigators of the ambush-slaying of Ilocos Sur auditor Agustin Chan Jr. for their "snail paced" investigation.

"I challenge them to (do) their investigation without fear or favor," said Dante Jimenez, chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, in a press conference here on Monday. "If they cannot do their job, they should resign."

Chan and his driver Alex Ragacho were killed in an ambush along the national highway in Bantay town on Oct. 4.

Jimenez, who was here Monday to attend the hearing of the case of one of the VACC's members, promised to conduct their own investigation and vowed to bring Chan's case to the attention of President Macapagal-Arroyo and other authorities.

Officials and members of the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance continue to appeal for justice.

"The martyrdom of Attorney Chan and Mr. Ragacho is not lost on the people of Ilocos Sur. We are grateful to them; they offered their lives for us to know the truth. For this, we seek justice for their deaths. We can do no less. It is our way of repaying them and of consoling their bereaved families," Nestor Seguismundo, Sisa president, said in a statement.

Supt. Fidel Cimatu, Ilocos Sur police director, admitted that they had made "little progress" in their investigation.

He said they had traced six vehicles with the plate number "118" in Laoag City but they did not fit the description of the assailants' vehicle given by their witness.

Earlier, Chan's missing cellular phone was traced by his daughter to San Vicente, Ilocos Sur.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

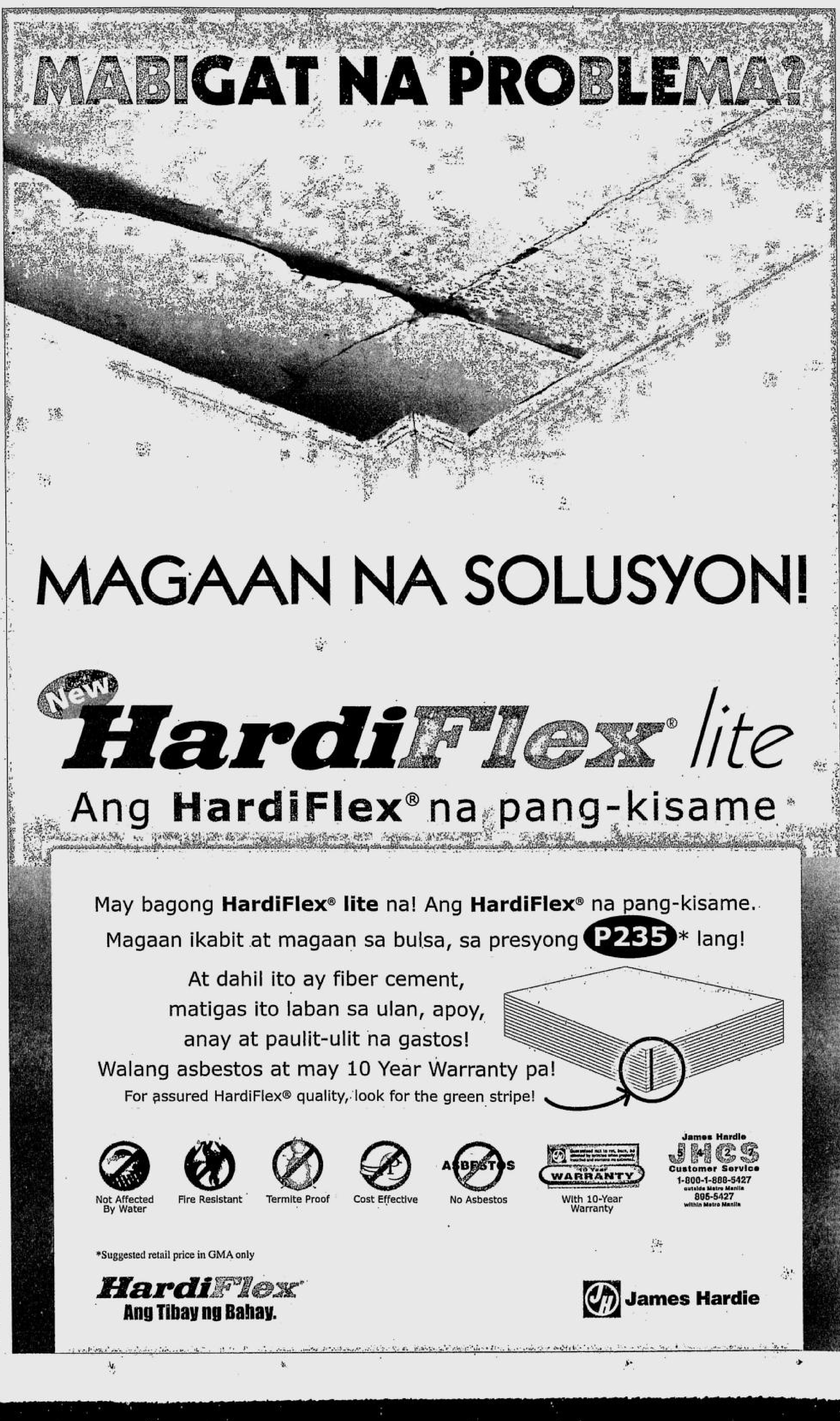
WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao including Palawan will cntinue to be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 25° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Mostly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/10/31/01


MABIGAT NA PROBLEMA?

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ROUNDUP

Tribes get land

BAGUIO CITY—The regional Department of Agrarian Reform has distributed 64,456 hectares of land to Cordillera farmers since the 1970s. Lloyd Rillera, public information officer of the regional DAR, said this shows that the agrarian reform program has been successful as 58,965 farmers, mostly members of indigenous Cordillera tribes, have benefited from the program. The DAR has distributed 15,793 hectares of land to farmers in Abra, the biggest land distribution in the region.

Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

NPA slain in encounter

LUPON, Davao Oriental—A New People's Army rebel was killed in an encounter with Army troops in Barangay Don Mariano Marcos here on Saturday. Maj. Alexis Gopico, commander of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, identified the NPA casualty as Manoling Moreno. He said Moreno's group figured in a gun battle with the 4th Special Forces Company. Soldiers recovered a rifle grenade, two VHF radio sets and several rounds of ammunitions.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Conflict of interest

MATI, Davao Oriental—A controversy brewed here after the firm owned by Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil's executive assistant bagged the contract for the Internet connection of the provincial government. Internet service providers who lost in the bidding said winning bidder Mati Telephone Corp. or MTC Net, which is owned by Connie Go, should not have been allowed to join the bidding because of conflict of interest. Palma Gil and Go refused to talk to the INQUIRER for comments.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Unfair traders charged

TACLOBAN CITY—Charges were filed against 10 business firms in Biliran for violating the fair trade law, said Cynthia Nierras, Department of Trade and Industry Eastern Visayas director. The DTI also warned 166 other firms for violating the business name and price tag laws. The Municipal Treasurer's Office also seized three weighing scales found defective.

Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau

Liquor ban in cemeteries

DIGOS CITY—Drinking liquor and gambling inside cemeteries on All Saints Day have been prohibited in Midsayap, North Cotabato. Midsayap Mayor Romeo Araña yesterday ordered the ban, saying these activities have been proven to cause trouble in the past. "If you're going to the cemetery, don't gamble and don't drink or make excessive noise that could disturb others," Araña said. "Just pray," the mayor added.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

3 killed in grenade blast

PIGCAWAYAN, North Cotabato—A family of three was killed while two others were wounded when unidentified men tossed a hand grenade at a farmhouse in Barangay Kimarayag here Sunday. Killed were Bibuen Batigo, his wife Gina and their 7-month-old son Benjie. Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the incident happened at 10 p.m. while the victims were asleep. Ireneo Jerez, the victims' relative, said the Batigo couple visited his house in Barangay Kimarayag to buy bamboo poles. They stayed overnight and were supposed to leave the next day when the incident occurred.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Rehab center planned

NAGA CITY—Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya has pledged P5 million for the construction of another drug rehabilitation center in San Fernando, Camarines Sur. The center will be located in a big lot to be donated by the municipal government, according to Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol police chief. Galang said the existing rehabilitation center for illegal drug victims in Malinao, Albay could only accommodate 30 patients. He added Albay Rep. Krisel Lagman-Luistro has pledged to allot funds for the expansion of the Albay center.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

K9 dogs in ports

LEGAZPI CITY—Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol police chief, said they are planning to rent K9 dogs to be used to detect illegal drugs or bombs in various ports of entry in the Bicol region. Galang said Bicol ports could be easily used as entry points for illegal drug traffickers or terrorists. The dogs could help police detect these dangerous items, he said. He said some Bicol congressmen have expressed willingness to support the plan.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Ramon Santos, 45

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Born insurance executive Ramon G. Santos, 45, died last Oct. 25 in San Francisco, USA due to a lingering illness. He is survived by wife Denise, and children Carlos Nicolas and Rebecca Antonia; father Carlos Santos Jr.; stepmother Sarita; siblings Zenaida and Zaldy, Arturo and Nellie, Ernesto and Clavel, Jose Carlo and Margot, Joselito and Leah and step sister Sharon. His remains were cremated on Monday in San Francisco.

4 cops awarded

PALO, Leyte—Four police officers from the Police Regional Office Eastern Visayas intelligence and investigation division section will receive the Gantimpala Agad Award on Nov. 5 from the Civil Service Commission. The awardees, PO2 Ted Prejula, PO1 Ricky Relli, PO1 Rolan Maceda and PO1 Joy Labanan were given recognition for being prompt, courteous and efficient in delivering public service.

Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

'SURVIVING ON PAIN KILLERS'

Loi says Erap needs knee surgery

BACOLOD CITY—Sen. Loi Ejercito on Sunday said the health of her husband, former President Joseph Estrada, is deteriorating.

Ejercito, a psychiatrist, said the arthritis in her husband's knees is very painful because the cartilage between the bones is already gone. She added that he survives on painkillers every day.

His doctors from the United States, who came to see him, had advised them that he should undergo knee surgery immediately to relieve him of the pain, said the senator.

But, Ejercito said, her husband refused to ask the Sandiganbayan that he be allowed to undergo surgery in the United States because the people might think that he is running away from his problems.

Aside from this, Ejercito said her husband's chronic pulmonary disease is also worsening because he continues to smoke heavily.

He could not also see in his left eye, she added.

Ejercito was in Bacolod on Sunday to deliver her husband's message at the Diocesan Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus during the saint's feast.

Estrada helped build the shrine in Barangay Alijis four years ago when he was still vice president. He is a devotee of St. Jude Thaddeus, the patron saint of the hopeless. He made it a tradition to join the fiesta of St. Jude Thaddeus in Bacolod.

He, however, could not make it this year because he is now detained at the Veterans Memorial Hospital pending trial of plunder charges filed against him shortly after his fall from power in January.

In his message read by his wife, Estrada said he regretted that he could not join the St. Jude Thaddeus rites. But he said he is thankful for the prayers and warm messages he continues to receive.

"These messages have given me inner peace and have served to inspire me to confront the trial I am facing today," he said.

Estrada said St. Jude will forever be his guide and inspiration.

"We ask St. Jude to intercede on our behalf for he will help us make the impossible become possible. In God's great mercy, nothing is impossible," he said.

Estrada said he has allowed himself to be detained because "I want the truth to be put on trial and let it win over the arrogance of the high and mighty."

He pointed out that he had been offered to leave the country twice before his arrest but he refused because "I have firm confidence and conviction in the righteousness of my cause."

"I owe it to our people to give them the example that we must all submit to the jurisdiction of our laws and to win our case in the bar of justice," he said.

He also called for prayers for the country and for world peace.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

RYAN LIM

ANTI-WAR

International protests, especially from Muslim and leftist groups, against the US-led war on terrorism in Afghanistan has reached Davao City. Members of a Moro organization join a peace rally in the city carrying streamers urging an end to war.

Coal plant mercury tolerable says DENR

CALACA, Batangas—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has confirmed in a report the presence of mercury and other heavy metals in the vicinity and inside the premises of the coal-fired National Power Corp. power plant in this coastal municipality.

Earlier, a group of international environmental activists expressed alarm over alleged toxic contamination resulting from the operation of the plant.

Based on the report of the NPC-Batangas Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant Multipartite Monitoring Team created by the DENR regional office, the DENR claimed that the mercury level was tolerable.

"The alleged mercury concentration of 0.21 ppm in coal ash as reported by Greenpeace does not translate to the toxicity of water from the ash-pond since the effluents are within the DENR standards," the team said.

The team's technical report was based on several inspection tours it made in at least 12 sampling sites inside the plant and its vicinity to determine the levels of mercury pollution.

Julian Amador, DENR Environmental Management Bureau director, said partial results indicated that the mercury concentrations are "within the allowable standards."

However, an official of the activist group Greenpeace Southeast Asia immediately criticized the DENR's conclusion.

"We are not surprised at the results of the DENR's testing of Calaca's environs. We said before and we are saying so again: Coal plants are major sources of the deadly neurotoxin mercury," Red Constantino, energy campaigner of the Greenpeace Southeast Asia, told the INQUIRER.

Constantino said the "safe standard" excuse does not work on substances like mercury, which simply accumulates as it goes through the food chain.

"This process is called bioaccumulation. I am surprised that the DENR does not seem (to be) familiar with this," he added. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

PNP, coast guard teamwork urged to stop smuggling

BAGUIO CITY—To stop rice smuggling, which is costing the government P5 billion in yearly revenue losses, the police and the Philippine Coast Guard should be strengthened, Sen. Manuel Villar said here Friday.

Villar, chair of the Senate committee on agriculture, said there should be coordination between the Coast Guard, the police and the National Food Authority to stop rice smuggling.

"We need a stronger Coast Guard not only to beef up our international security but to stop smuggling," he said.

He described rice smuggling in the country as "very systematic and large-scale." Last year, smuggled rice confiscated by authorities reached 225,000 tons.

Villar said the NFA needs assistance in stopping smuggling.

"Because of smuggling, the NFA cannot properly import rice," he said.

Philippine rice output this year was raised to 12.4 million tons but consumption also increased due to higher production and sufficient supply.

Rice imports were adjusted to more than 815,000 tons despite increased rice production during the year. For the next market year, the NFA said rice imports are expected to decline due to another record rice harvest and adequate stocks.

Villar is also thinking of raising the tariff for rice importation for the government to earn money.

"But smuggling is changing the equation," he said.

He said the NFA-issued "authority to import" is being abused by some big-time smugglers.

"It (the authority to import) has become big business in itself," Villar said.

He said their investigations showed that many smugglers repeatedly use their "authority to import" permit.

In one case of rice smuggling in Pangasinan last July involving 25,000 sacks of rice, it was learned that the "authority to import" was already used six times by the consignees in the past six months when it should have been used only once.

"If the documents are being abused repeatedly, why can't the NFA do the importing instead? The NFA should not be issuing this instead," Villar said.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Oreta project puts face to problems of teachers

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—Two-way radios were what public schoolteachers in the Cordillera wanted. They said a radio network in the Cordillera, with its remote and rugged terrain, would help link the school districts to their divisions and to the Department of Education regional office in Baguio City.

Teachers in Metro Manila wanted to own modest homes. Many regarded tax incentives as direly necessary.

Those in Cebu dreamt of operating a cooperative bank while those teaching in far-flung areas of Mindanao yearned for temporary living quarters.

Thousands raised the need for more health benefits and sought competencies in teaching Science and Math.

The wish list is long but it was never randomly culled.

It was, in fact, the result of the first ever national survey of all 439,528 public schoolteachers in the country done after 100 years of public education in the Philippines, according to Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta.

The full results of the survey, with a response rate of 97 percent, are published in the book "The Profile of the Filipino Teacher."

"There are many stories in the book which tell of the simple but basic needs of our teachers which only (the) government, especially the executive agencies, can help provide," Oreta said.

Oreta funded the study when she was chair of the Senate committee on education, arts and culture in the 11th Congress.

She commissioned the Seameo Innotech, an international organization in 10 Southeast Asian nations, to undertake the study together with faculty members and graduate students of the Philippine Normal University.

It was part of Oreta's "Project Tao (Teachers Advancement for Optimum well-being)."

For the survey, the latest statistical software technology "Statistical Package for Social Sciences" was utilized.

The book—which Oreta said gave public schoolteachers a name, a face, a place of work at school and a voice in decision-making—was launched in an austere rite at the Sto. Cristo Elementary School in Tarlac City on Oct. 12.

Oreta said this was the first time that public schoolteachers were asked about things that are important to them.

Employment status, welfare and benefits, and conditions of work at school were high on the survey questions.

Vilma Labrador, DepEd Central Luzon director, said teachers in the region thanked Oreta "for going out of her way to look into their plight."

"The findings of Project Tao are now being used, even reluctantly by the Department of Education, to determine the appropriateness and fairness of the budgetary distribution and allocation for the salaries, welfare and benefits of schoolteachers," Oreta said.

Either for further studies or policy reforms, Oreta said academicians, researchers, graduate students and educators would find the book useful because of the richness and variety of its data.

And the wish list?

As for the Cordillera radio network, Oreta said funds are available in the reenacted budget. The DECS, however, must request for its release.

Oreta's Senate Bill 1275, seeking to upgrade the salary grade of teachers from 10 to 18 and to provide a 10-percent hike in longevity benefits, is pending before the 12th Congress.

A modified version of her Senate Bill 1807 provides for tax exemption on all benefits of public schoolteachers including those in state colleges in universities.

She said teachers, mostly in Central Visayas, have begun the National Teachers and Employees Cooperative Bank. The teachers, she added, raised P15 million from investors. Oreta made available P5 million so the bank could meet the P20-million paid-up capital requirement.

On chalks and other materials, the P30-million "Teachers Accessories Project" (TAP) was set up and included in the 2000 budget.

Peace new Army goal, says chief

COTABATO CITY—An agreement has been signed for a joint peace initiative between the chief of the Philippine Army and the Notre Dame University headed by peace advocate Fr. Eliseo Mercado, OMI.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos paid a courtesy call on Mercado at Mercado's office Monday night to present his peace and development program as head of the armed forces' biggest branch—the Army.

"The Army is now waging a new kind of war in Mindanao," De los Santos, commander of the UN peacekeeping force in East Timor last year, told reporters.

"Your Army now is here not to destroy but to build peace because there can never be development if there is unpeace in our land," the Army chief told Father Mercado.

De los Santos was the guest of honor and speaker of the Army's 6th Infantry Division Tuesday, where he urged soldiers to become "warriors of peace" now that Malacañang is vigorously pursuing peace talks with revolutionary groups in Mindanao.

But he reminded soldiers that while peace advocacy has been integrated into the Philippine Army system, its prime duty of protecting the sovereignty of the state remains.

Mercado, chair of Kusog Mindanao, a non-government organization advocating dialogues in Mindanao, said "there's always a cooperation between government and NGOs when it comes to peace making and development."

He said the Church-run Notre Dame University would cooperate with any government or non-government organization, the military included, when it comes to peace building provided it is accompanied with justice and protection of human rights.

The government and the MILF had entered into a ceasefire agreement during talks in Kuala Lumpur but clashes continue in some parts of Mindanao.

Both sides had denied starting the clashes. ***Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Loi to Gloria: Stop travelling

SEN. Loi Ejercito has one unsolicited advice for President Macapagal-Arroyo—stop going abroad and attend to the needs of the country.

"Every time the President travels abroad, thousands of dollars are spent for her and her entourage," Ejercito told reporters in Bacolod on Sunday.

Ejercito and her husband, ousted President Joseph Estrada, had been criticized for allegedly living a life of wealth.

They are facing charges of bribery for allegedly accepting millions of pesos in kickbacks from the illegal numbers game jueteng.

The senator said the country's economy is deteriorating and has led to increasing prices of commodities and the declining value of the peso.

She also pointed out that the country's peace and order situation "is very bad."

President Macapagal-Arroyo left for Hong Kong on Sunday to address a meeting of the World Economic Forum, an independent organization funded by the world's leading companies.

Yesterday, she was in Beijing, China to meet with President Jiang Zemin and Premier Zhu Rongji to strengthen trade and investment ties.

The President is expected to be back in the country on Wednesday. She is also scheduled to visit the United States later this year.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Soldier hurts in ambush

TACLOBAN CITY—A soldier was wounded during an ambush staged by suspected communist rebels in Basey town, Samar on Oct. 25. Wounded was Staff Sgt. Pedro Tomol, 41, of the Army's 801st Infantry Battalion based in Hinabangan town, Samar.

A radio message reaching the 8th Infantry Division in Camp Lukban, Catbalogan town, Samar, showed that Tomol was on board a motorcycle with his 4-year-old daughter when at least 10 armed men fired at them in Barangay Old San Augustin. Tomol was hit in the thigh while his daughter was unharmed.

The soldier was brought to the Basey District Hospital but was later transferred to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center.

Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Solcom deactivation alarms execs

LUCENA CITY—Quezon provincial officials have expressed alarm that with the impending deactivation of the military's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) based in Camp Nakar here, communist insurgency would escalate.

In a resolution, the provincial council expressed support and appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo for the retention of the Solcom in the Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions for it to continue performing its present functions.

The officials reasoned out that the proposed transfer of all human and material resources of the entire command to Camp Aquino in Tarlac would create a void that could be exploited and taken advantage of by the communist rebels.

"The revolutionary activities of the NPA such as forced taxation would escalate thereby further slowing down the business climate, which could add to the deterioration of the economy in Southern Luzon," the council said.

Maj. Gen. Narciso Abaya, Solcom commander, admitted to newsmen here that there is indeed a plan to deactivate the Solcom and merge it with the Northern Luzon Command to oversee the unified military command post for the entire Luzon operation.

Recent reports from the Solcom disclosed that the plan would take effect before the end of the year.

Solcom was first deactivated on Jan. 16 but it was put into an active status again on March 16 under former now deceased Solcom chief Maj. Gen. Jose Lachica.

The local government officials pointed out that it is in the Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions "where the Left continues to keep a stronghold and maintain a good showing. They said it was seen especially during the last national and local elections where most of the candidates identified with the Left won with a landslide victory."

Quezon Gov. Wilfrido Enverga said he need not emphasize the value of maintaining Solcom in its present location in terms of safeguarding and protecting the lives, property and liberty of the constituents.

The Quezon officials also expressed fear that the deactivation of Solcom will create a large vacuum which the police units in the locality might not be able to immediately fill up.

Abaya recently admitted that the communist movement in the Southern Tagalog region is in the upswing.

He said the CPP-NPA has now a total of more than 3,000 cadres in the region, half of which are armed.

Supt. Roberto Rosales, Quezon police chief, admitted that they would be placed in a precarious situation should the pullout of Solcom take effect.

"But if the planned command deactivation will be finally executed, the Quezon police have no other options but to carry out the responsibility that will be left to us," he said.

Nancy Rada, Task Force Tanggol-Karapatan spokesperson, however, stressed their call for the pullout of the entire military in the Southern Tagalog region.

"It should not only be the Solcom alone. The government should also pull out even the smallest military detachments in remote towns and villages that continuously create fear due to extensive military operations," Rada said.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

New cops on Nov. 1 duty

PALO, Leyte—Close to 1,150 new policemen will be deployed to the different municipalities in Eastern Visayas to maintain peace and order during All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

Chief Supt. Nardito Yoro, police director for Eastern Visayas, said the 1,144 neophyte policemen would be sent to the different police stations in the region's 143 towns to reinforce existing police personnel.

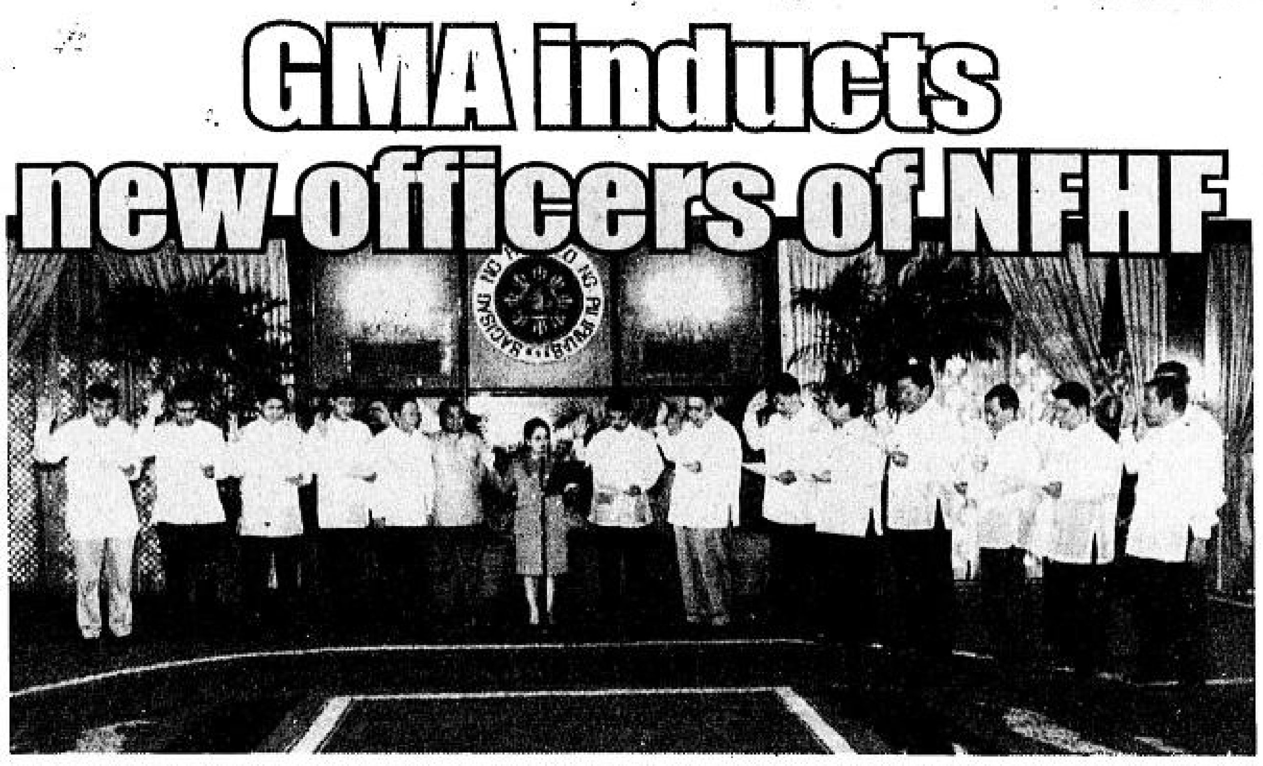
The INQUIRER learned that each police station has about 20 to 30 policemen.

Yoro, however, declined to give the exact number of policemen that would be deployed per police station for security reasons.

But he said there was a need to augment the number of policemen to prevent any untoward incident during the two-day religious holidays on Nov. 1 and 2.

Yoro also ordered his men to watch out for possible attacks by communist guerrillas. *Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

GMA inducts new officers of NFHF



***NEW NFHF OFFICERS INDUCTED** - President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is joined by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Hon. Sec. Angelito Sarmiento, Pres'l Adviser on Agricultural Modernization (5th-6th from L) in the induction of the new Board of Trustees and officers of National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc. (NFHF) at Malacañang last October 26. Taking their oath of office are (L-R) **Antonio Lustre**, Trustee, **Severino Mercado**, Trustee, **Johnson Dycaico**, Treasurer, **Stanley Siu**, Trustee, **Gabriel H. Uy**, Chairman, **Rene Eleria**, Vice Chairman, **Ramon Lim**, Rep. for Luzon, **Lito Hizon**, Auditor & Trustee, **Senty Tan**, Trustee, **Charles Ong**, Trustee, **Francis Wong**, Corp. Sec., **Menan Maleon**, and **Vicento Mercado** (partly hidden).*

The newly elected Council of Presidents and officers of the National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc. (NFHF) were recently inducted into office by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at Malacañang. Heading the executive committee are Gabriel H. Uy, Chairman, Renato R. Eleria, Vice Chairman, Johnson C. Dycaico, Treasurer, Miguelito G. Hizon, Auditor, and Francisco L. Wong, Corporate Secretary.

With 24 associations of hog farmers under its umbrella, the new officers of NFHF pledged their full cooperation in promoting and maximizing the capacity of the hog farming industry and agricultural sector as the second largest contributor in Philippine agricultural sector. They were also called upon to discharge their duties and responsibilities within the bounds of the highest ethical standards and the norms of the industry.

One of the chief concerns the federation seeks to immediately address is the creation of proper representation of hog farmers in the government. "Philippines has a considerable number of hog farmers. If they are properly represented, they could establish a closer working relationship with the government. This will enable them to bolster the productivity of their hog farms", NFHF Chairman Gabriel Uy said.

Meanwhile, NFHF Corp. Sec. Francis Wong acknowledged the contribution of hog farming in the agricultural industry. "Hog raising is one of the biggest source of livelihood representing the cross-section of the society. Sustaining its momentum through effective implementation of development programs and technology dissemination to farmers is a crucial factor in improving our economy which is largely based on agriculture".

The NFHF is on its 11th year of existence and is currently representing various hog farmers associations from all over the Philippines.

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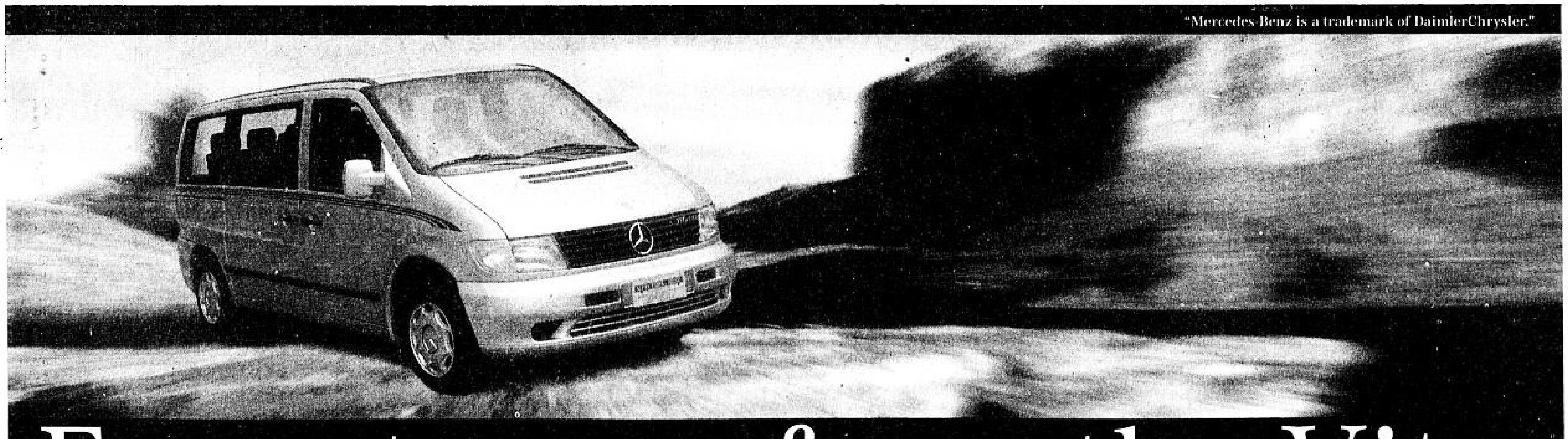

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Kidnap victims' lonely crusade against crimes

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

THERE is nobility in tragic death when it inspires peace instead of vengeance."

Charles and Lota Leung, both psychologically battered and emotionally numbed by the March 11 murder of their son, Giancarlo, are offering to his memory this compassionate message for All Saints' Day.

"It is not an easy message to make. We are angry at Gian's murderers. We feel (President Macapagal-Arroyo) is justified in applying the death penalty to people convicted (of) kidnap-for-ransom cases, where they kill or brutalize their victims and their victims' loved ones. We feel that (the) kidnappers are the real terrorists, the plague of this world. And we want justice, more than anyone (who has a grievance), no matter what it will cost us," Charles said.

This, too, will be the message they will whisper over Giancarlo's grave.

Giancarlo, a journalism graduate of the University of the Philippines College Baguio, was abducted along with his friend Tihani Tingal, also a UPCB graduate, near his home in Baguio City on March 8.

Their bodies were discovered three days later in Mexico, Pampanga. The case had alarmed President Macapagal-Arroyo because of its utter senselessness.

The Leungs and the Tingals were not the traditional targets for kidnap-for-ransom gangs. The deaths of Giancarlo and Tihani were even more compelling because ransom negotiations were still under way, initiated by Lota herself.

Despite the pain of losing a son, the Leung couple had been preaching peace to Baguio residents, who have long described kidnapping as a "rich man's problem."

"This is the first time we will finally look inwards. Since Gian's death, we have been a little controlled, a little focused. We have fought hard to see to the trial of three of Gian's (kidnapping suspects). But it has been seven months, and (Lota and I) are beginning to feel the tension," Charles admitted.

Real victims

"But we also appreciate who the real victims of kidnappings are... People now realize that when a kidnapping occurs, the families of the kidnap victims suffer. But when it terrorizes industrialists to scamper away from the country, when it encourages capital flight and we all lose jobs, then it becomes terrorism (in its most frightful) form."

KIDNAPPINGS are not just "rich men's problems" as the Leung couple, shown here with a picture of their late son Giancarlo, would painfully learn.
E.V. ESPIRITU

For months, the couple had been laboring on an anti-crime crusade that would motivate both rich and poor families to set up community networks against crime and organized kidnap-for-ransom groups.

Charles said the crusade relies heavily on teaching neighborhoods the basic profile of kidnap groups that operate right within the community of their targets.

The profile was supplied by the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Task Force, and it theorizes that most syndicates run their kidnap operations through a "handler" who coordinates different criminal groups with interdependent assignments.

The handler designates a surveillance group, which studies routines and checks on the financial background of a potential target. The information is transmitted to the actual abduction group, which will turn over the victim to an independent holding unit.

Separate teams act as ransom negotiators for the victim's release, Charles said.

"None of these criminal elements probably knows about each other's involvement. Everything (goes) through the handler," he said.

But neighborhoods can pinpoint syndicate meeting places, and trace potential kidnap safehouses, an asset which police often tap but rarely manage to sustain since kidnapping cases have begun to overwhelm the government in 1998, Charles told the INQUIRER.

Zen-inspired

He said his alternative anti-crime crusade offers a Zen-inspired approach to criminality because it empowers neighborhoods with real data about crimes.

But it requires a whole lot more trust than what people are willing to give, he admitted.

Lota said Filipinos will have to address the vast political divisions that have fueled a class war between rich and poor neighborhoods, and which now prevents an active community-based policing system to be effective programs against criminality.

She said the class divisions, which resulted in the May 1 riots at the gates of Malacañang, are what compel poorer households to dismiss kidnap-for-ransom syndicates as the "rich people's dilemma."

But it took friends and strangers to supply the Leungs with information that shed more light into their son's murder.

Three Baguio youths are on trial for the kidnapping, but it had been stalled due to a technicality.

Charles said police have failed to convince him that the abductions were mere fraternity reprisals, and had sought assurance from Malacañang that Giancarlo's and Tihani's murder case will remain open to new leads.

Little pieces of evidence have so far surfaced to provide a logical explanation for Giancarlo's and Tihani's abductions, he said.

Hanging coffins still awe tourists

By Alfred Dizon
Mt. Province

IF you visit the tourist town of Sagada in Mt. Province on All Saints' Day, go mountain climbing, pull yourself up a crevice and see a skull eerily staring at you inches away from your face. Don't be frightened, you might lose your foothold and plunge hundreds of meters down.

The skull might have been physical remnants of a pagan warrior strewn from a nearby pine coffin by gusty winds.

Most mountains in the town are adorned by what have come to be known as the "hanging coffins."

Until American Anglican missionaries arrived in Sagada in the early part of the last century, animist tribal folk known as Applais or Kankanaeys did not bury their dead. They believed that putting their dead in steep crevices made their loved ones "nearer" to the gods.

Elaborate ritual

Dying in Sagada is an elaborate ritual for the pagans. But whether you are a Christian or a pagan, you must follow prescribed rituals or your family suffers from bad omen, tribal folk believe.

Before my grandmother died, she kept a blue and white indigenous blanket in a wooden closet. She said it would be used to drape her body when the time comes that she "goes somewhere else."

So when she died in 1997, we did exactly that. We completed her outfit with multicolored native beads, *bagket* (a native skirt) and essentials that she said she wanted to bring with her during her "journey."

We had to butcher the traditional 23 native black pigs and several chickens. She may have been satisfied as nobody among our family experienced supernatural occurrences during and after her wake.

My grandmother was one of many pagans in Sagada who had been converted to the Anglican faith but still kept her pagan beliefs and practices until her death. But she wanted to be buried beside our grandfather at the Anglican cemetery below the Calvary in the town so we didn't haul her up to a crevice.

The dead in Sagada could be buried at the cemetery or be placed in a mountainside cranny. When we were young, we were required to attend wakes. We ate with the unbearable smell of an unembalmed corpse nearby. It was considered unethical or shameful to cover your nose during a wake.

No stone must fall from a ledge, no animal like a dog or a cat must enter the house where the dead was "sleeping," and one must maintain complete silence.

Christians are buried at the Anglican cemetery, but their families must slaughter a prescribed number of pigs and chickens as dictated by pagan elders.

Bad omen

Old folk recall that when the family of a dead man killed a white cow in the past during his wake, they foresaw it as a sign of bad omen. They recall that his house got burned for unknown reasons.

Since then, everybody adhered to tradition in killing animals.

Pagan wakes last from three days to a week. The dead are strapped to a bamboo or wooden chair. For tribal folk, the playing of gongs is prohibited during wakes unlike in some Ibaloi tribes in Benguet. Gong playing is reserved only for marriages or other occasions.

While the wake is ongoing, elders do the *baya-o*, a frightening chant wherein those present may scold or praise the dead. Listening to the *baya-o* could send shivers down one's spine as it could start from a high pitched wail, descend to a murmur and end with a shout and a thud of a foot.

The *baya-o*, according to elders, is a strong deterrent for people to do something bad. It is not uncommon to see old men shouting at a corpse, like he were alive, while recounting bad or good things he had done.

The dead's "journey" starts when the corpse's knees are forced to its chin. The body is covered with a white cloth and bound with a rope made from the maguey plant.

When elders decide it is time for the dead to go, the tribe's men pick the body up, carry it and run fast to bring it to its burial place.

It is considered good luck if the dead's blood gets sprinkled on you. This means you will have bountiful harvests and will be successful in life.

With this belief, everybody tries to grab the body. Women are not allowed to carry the dead and it is considered a bad omen if the body falls to the ground.

Carriers bring food, usually rice, *camote* (sweet potato) or pork in a *sangi*, an indigenous backpack made of rattan.

Burying the dead is accompanied by danger. The men wrap themselves with ropes, climb the steep mountainside and haul the body.

Once they reach the dead man's final resting place, they put the body in a coffin and eat without washing their hands. They chant prayers warning the dead not to "do ill" against anybody but instead "bring peace and prosperity" to those he left behind. Then they bid him farewell.

A new life

Tourists have often wondered why coffins at the large burial cave in Barangay Ambasing in Sagada are so short.

The reason is the body is put in a fetal position. Elders have interpreted it as "starting a new life."

Some tourists have vandalized sacred burial grounds prompting the municipal council to restrict the entry of tourists to these areas.

Residents said some doctors, students and hospital employees from Manila broke open some coffins and took away skeletons and mummies, most could have been remains of warriors responsible for warding off Spanish *conquistadores* from imposing colonial rule in the hinterland town.

Nowadays, many residents prefer to be buried in the cemetery. And during All Saints' Day, it is not uncommon to see residents bring pine or pitch wood to the cemetery to "warm" the dead.

Anglican ceremonies start between 3 and 4 p.m. at the St. Mary the Virgin Church. Just before dusk, the priest sprinkles holy water over the tombs and residents start the fires.

While fires are ebbing, the scene could look like a horror movie with reddish and glowing embers, smoke and people silhouetted between crosses.

Changing ways Cagayanos remember their dead

By Estanislao Caldez
Cagayan

TIME has changed the ways pious Cagayanos remember their dead. Even the 107-year-old Catholic cemetery in Tuguegarao City is a witness to these changes.

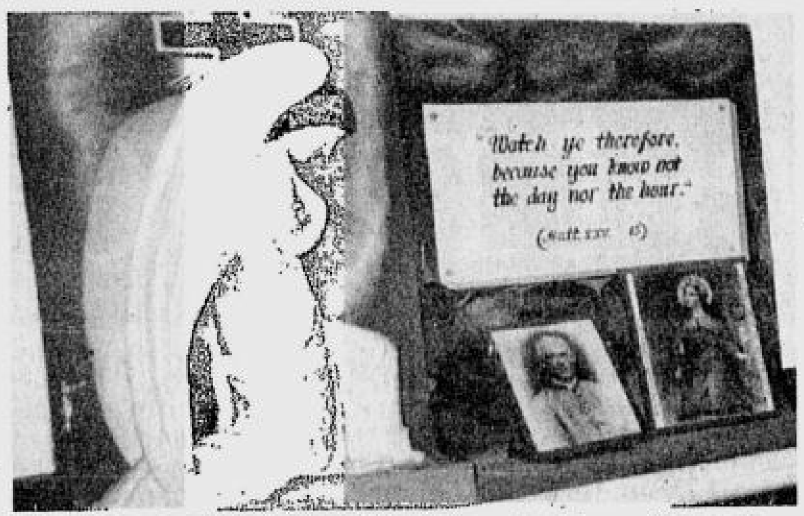
The Tuguegarao Catholic Cemetery, built on Jan. 2, 1894 by Friar Bonifacio Corujedo, then parish priest of Tuguegarao, is still fenced with Spanish-era bricks. It was once a gallery of life-size crucifixes, icons and angels with their fingers touching their lips to admonish visitors to respect the dead.

Now these icons, including the Spanish-worded marble epitaphs, are gone.

Pilgrims will find the ancient cemetery like a mini-housing community. Grilled family mausoleums dwarf the tombs of the poor and the ordinary Cagayanos.

All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day used to be celebrated in solemnity and quiet.

The *cantores* (singers) used to sing or recite prayers from tomb to tomb for a few centavos. But they are all gone. In their place are radio sets and blaring karaoke machines that turn cemeteries into party places.


"Watch ye therefore, because you know not the day nor the hour."
(Matt. xxv 13)

TOMB of Dutch Bishop Constant Jurgens, an adopted son of Cagayan.
ESTANISLAO CALDEZ

Through the years, on the feast of the dead, a massive catafalque (platform supporting the coffin at a funeral) draped in black is placed near the altar of the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul in Tuguegarao. Parishioners offered flowers and wreaths on Nov. 1 and 2.

A priest in black vestment recites *responsos or* prayers for the dead. During these days, residents can also request the *doblas* and *agonias* or the ringing of bells with special sonorous peals by paying 50 centavos. Through the years, the fee has increased to P5.

The ringing of bells would last for a minute, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and it gave a somber atmosphere in the town as residents remember their dead.

However, these practices were recently stopped because of criticisms of commercialism.

But residents never fail to visit the province's churches to pray and offer Mass for their dead. They then visit the cemetery and offer native cakes and delicacies on their home altars to welcome the "homecoming" souls.

Despite the economic crisis, villagers have started cooking native delicacies especially *sinuman*, *bibingka* and chocolate of pure cacao nuts.

The church has also stopped the Spanish practice of burying priests and church officials in niches in the walls of the Catholic church in the city.

The last church official buried in the cathedral compound was Bishop Constant Jurgens, a Dutch bishop loved by Cagayanos for spending his family's money to build churches in parishes in the province, and for establishing the Cagayan Valley Atheneum, now the Saint Louis College.

Jurgens died on June 3, 1952 in Quezon City but he willed that his remains be buried in Cagayan. As a tribute, the provincial government declared Jurgens an adopted son of Cagayan.

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News that makes a difference

US warns of new attacks this week

Poll finds Americans show doubts about war

WASHINGTON—Americans' doubts about the war on terror are starting to grow, despite their continued overwhelming support of President George W. Bush and the military attacks on Afghanistan, a poll suggests.

They're starting to question how well the government can protect its citizens, whether the international alliance will hold, and whether the US will capture or kill Osama bin Laden.

The CBS-New York Times poll indicated that 18 percent now have a "great deal of confidence" the government can protect its citizens, compared with 35 percent in late September.

The poll comes as government officials warned Monday that Americans should be on alert for another terrorist attack that could come this week. *(See story on Page A1.)*

The poll showed people were about evenly split on whether the government is telling people what they need to know about anthrax—an area where the government has received sharp criticism.

It also suggested that a majority, 53 percent, now think another terrorist attack is likely—up from a third a month ago. And a shrinking number think the war is going very well —down slightly to a fourth of Americans.

The public still overwhelmingly approves of the job being done by the president—87 percent—and four of five approve of his handling of the war on terrorism.

But undercurrents in the survey suggest—for the first time—a growing nervousness and unease about the anti-terror campaign. Only a fourth now think the military will kill or capture suspected terrorist Bin Laden, compared with almost four in 10 three weeks ago. Three in 10 think the international alliance will hold, compared with almost half earlier this month.

And support for the military attacks in Afghanistan remains very high—with almost nine in 10 supporting them. A majority expected the war to last a year or longer and say it will be worth it even if several thousand US troops are lost.

The poll of 1,024 adults was taken Thursday through Sunday and has an error margin of plus or minus three percentage points. *AP*

(From page A1)

So far, the most visible results of the US air attacks—and one limited commando raid—have been a rash of civilian casualties and a wave of refugees bringing tales of death and destruction from their shattered cities.

Venezuela President Hugo Chavez, during a live TV broadcast, displayed photographs of Afghan children reported to be bombing victims and pleaded for an end to "the killing of innocents."

"Let's seek solutions to the problem of terrorism, yes, let's seek out the terrorists . . . but not like this," he said. "This cannot be."

The Canadian government said it was extremely worried about how the seven million Afghans who need humanitarian aid would cope with the coming winter.

In Britain, a poll published by the Guardian newspaper showed 54 percent of respondents wanted the bombing to stop for humanitarian reasons.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, America's strongest ally in the war on terror, was expected to make a key speech on Tuesday to shore up support for the campaign and wrestle back the initiative in the propaganda war with Bin Laden.

A spokesperson said Blair would urge Britons to remember the anguish caused by the September attacks on New York and Washington.

Instability

Anger over the raids has not only spread around the world but has also threatened the stability of pro-American governments in some Muslim countries.

Saudi Arabia on Monday said it hoped for a quick end to the strikes because they were hurting civilians.

Pakistani Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz on Tuesday called for a swift end to the strikes, saying it had gone too long.

"We would like it to be concluded sooner rather than later," he told delegates attending the East Asia Summit, organized by the ongoing World Economic Forum in Hong Kong.

Pakistan—the only remaining state to recognize the Taliban regime diplomatically—is the key frontline member of the US-led coalition and has offered US forces intelligence and logistics support for strikes on its neighbor.

Concerns are growing in Islamabad as Pashtun tribesmen in Pakistan bring out their Kalashnikovs to join the Taliban's struggle, hardline Islamists mount street demonstrations and attack Christians, and refugees build up on the frontier.

The commander-in-chief of the US operation, Gen. Tommy Franks, on Monday visited Islamabad to reassure the nervous military regime, and the United States earmarked additional cash aid to stabilize its reluctant ally.

"All these programs totaled up, (Pakistan) will get over $1 billion from the US government . . . and several billion dollars from international aid organizations," said Richard Boucher, spokesperson of the state department.

The White House also announced that US President George W. Bush would meet with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on Nov. 10 in New York.

Musharraf has called for the air strikes to end before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins on Nov. 15.

More raids coming

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, however, said the bombing would not be suspended during the Ramadan.

Rumsfeld sought to defuse criticism of the strikes by saying some Taliban and al-Qaida leaders might have been killed in the bombing.

Pentagon officials also furiously protested that the Taliban rulers were exploiting Afghan civilians as human shields and insisted the strikes had weakened the militia's ability to fight back.

On Tuesday, US jets bombed the regime's stronghold Kandahar, the capital Kabul and frontline positions blocking a threatened opposition offensive on the Taliban's northern stronghold of Mazar-e-Sharif, Taliban officials said.

"They have been bombarding Kandahar since dawn and the attack is still continuing," Abdul Wakil Omari, deputy head of the Taliban's Bakhter information agency, said just after 10 a.m. (0530 GMT).

Kandahar, in southern Afghanistan, is the home of Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar and Bin Laden has a house there. It has been the target of fierce air raids, and the only known ground battle involving US commandos.

But both Omar and Bin Laden are thought to have left the city along with, according to UN estimates, 70 percent of the pre-war population.

Ghost town

Refugees describe it as a bombed-out ghost town.

The Afghan Islamic Press reported that four people had died in the latest strikes on Kandahar, and the Taliban said a US bomb had destroyed a water supply center in the village of Veni Hihar, 8 km from Kabul.

The Taliban said US planes had also bombarded military targets in the key northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

The anti-Taliban Northern Alliance said Monday it was preparing to mount an offensive to capture the city with the help of US air attacks and a small team of US military advisers.

But there was no sign of the offensive beginning.

Opposition officials reported that frontlines were quiet in the Dara-e-Souf valley, around 70 km south of Mazar-e-Sharif.

The US task of getting Bin Laden and the Taliban fighters has been complicated by a honeycomb of caves that permeate mountainous Afghanistan.

US bombs have been unable to blast the Taliban forces from their underground strongholds that have provided shelter against foreign invaders for hundreds of years.

Frustrated by the slow pace of developments, the Pentagon acknowledged it was considering the creation of a base inside opposition-held Afghan territory.

The proposed forward base would support the opposition Northern Alliance. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

Ombudsman blasts Sandigan for 'acquitting' Erap

(From page A1)

preme Court, he said.

Desierto said that he asked Garchitorena on Monday to issue a formal resolution, and that the justice promised to do so after the All Saints' Day holiday.

Reacting to a challenge by Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag that he resign or commit *hara-kiri* (suicide), Desierto told the INQUIRER: "He wants me to resign? Maybe it's double talk. Maybe he means that the prosecution is strong, that's why he wants me out. Why would he want me to resign if the prosecution is weak, which will surely benefit his client?"

Desierto added: "He was being disloyal to his client because in the first place, his conduct was unethical. And second, he was lying. The prosecution is strong, after all. In either case, he has been (put) into a dilemma he himself has created."

The reverse happened

The Plunder Watch coalition said the Sandiganbayan appeared to be lawyering for Estrada in light of Garchitorena's refusal to admit the bank documents submitted by the prosecution for the perjury case.

Plunder Watch convenor Fr. Joe Dizon said the court could have allowed the prosecution to present the evidence first, and then ruled on its validity and relevance.

"But the reverse happened," Dizon said. "We now have to ask the first division if it is really serious in getting to the truth, or is it more interested in lawyering for the accused?"

He added: "It's bad enough that we have a fumbling prosecution team. But seeing the justice lawyer for the defense is worse."

Dizon said Garchitorena had become fixated with numbers when "the whole point of the trial is to determine whether Estrada lied in his 1999 statement of assets and liabilities."

"It is not important if he lied by P1 million or P75 million. The point is he lied," Dizon said.

He also said that based on the records of the two bank accounts supposed to be presented as evidence, Estrada had submitted an untruthful statement for 1999.

In a statement, Plunder Watch said the Sandiganbayan "should rule on technicalities from the point of view of the complaining public, not the accused public official."

It said the court might have set a "dangerous precedent," such that a complainant would have to first determine the exact unreported amount in a public official's annual statement before charging the latter in court.

"The only ones happy with this decision are public officials like Estrada who lie about their true net worth," Dizon said, citing the difficulty of gaining access to bank records.

Surprised

Desierto admitted having been surprised at what occurred in court Monday.

"We could not understand why" Garchitorena refused to admit the bank documents that the prosecution submitted as evidence, he said, adding: "Evidence can be proclaimed inadmissible only after (it is) presented."

At the hearing, the prosecution was to have formally entered as evidence documents showing that Estrada kept a total of P74 million in the Keppel Bank and Security Bank as of Dec. 31, 1999.

These would have backed the prosecution's contention that Estrada had more than the P35 million, which he declared as his total assets.

But Garchitorena did not allow the presentation of these bank documents, saying that Estrada had not been properly informed of his crime.

He ruled in open court that in accusing Estrada of underdeclaring his assets for 1999, the prosecution should have indicated in the charge sheet exactly how much wealth the accused allegedly hid.

"(But) we didn't have to say how much," Desierto said. "If we will say so, we will have to prove every centavo. What is important is (Estrada) had more."

Desierto also took time to counter claims that the prosecution made a big mistake in earlier amending the perjury charge against Estrada.

"Under the law, we have the right to amend the information before the arraignment. It should not be taken against the prosecution," he said.

Desierto had earlier asked Garchitorena and first division Associate Justice Gregory Ong to inhibit themselves from the perjury hearings.

The Ombudsman is questioning Estrada's appointment of Ong as Sandiganbayan justice because Ong supposedly spent only four years in the trial courts when 10-year experience is required. ***With reports from Debra Jane Magallon, PDI Visayas Bureau; Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila***

Management group dismayed by grant of immunity

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines (MAP) yesterday assailed the government for granting immunity to Carlos Arellano and Federico Pascual, former heads of the Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System, in exchange for helping prosecute Joseph Estrada for plunder.

MAP president Ricardo Pascua said in a statement that his group viewed the decision with "great dismay." He said it was "unnecessary" because "the pursuit of charges against these two officials would have eventually led the prosecutors to the doorstep of Estrada with or without their cooperation."

He said the grant of immunity to the two men would send the "very bad message" that state officials could dodge prosecution for crimes of their own doing by simply putting the blame on higher authorities.

Pascua said the two men were "seasoned professional bankers" who allowed or facilitated Estrada's use of the SSS and GSIS pension funds for his and his cronies' financial benefit, putting at risk P1.847 billion in members' contributions.

The questionable deals into which the SSS and GSIS entered during the Estrada administration include loans to crony corporations and individuals as well as purchases of listed corporations such as PCIBank (in tandem with Equitable Banking Corp.) and Belle Resources Corp.

In separate affidavits submitted to the Ombudsman, Arellano and Pascual expressed "discomfort" over the speculative nature of the deals.

They said they entered into these transactions because they were ordered or repeatedly pressured by Estrada to do so.

But Pascua said the deals were clearly irregular and contrary to the policies of the two institutions, as well as prejudicial to their members' interest.

He said that the decision of Arellano and Pascual to obey Estrada's supposed orders was "irresponsible, reprehensible and contemptible," and that their subsequent repudiation of these acts to help the government nail down Estrada for plunder was "an obvious attempt to escape responsibility and possible retribution."

Pascua said that if Estrada had indeed insisted on these deals despite their counsel, the two men should have quit.

It was "a choice that was indisputably available to them," he said.

Pascua also said that for failing to protect SSS and GSIS members from Estrada's alleged pillaging, Arellano and Pascual were even rewarded with large retirement benefits that would have been overlooked were it not for alert officials of the Commission on Audit.

Erap to sue Desierto

(From page A1)

Rene Saguisag, another Estrada lawyer, as saying that Desierto should resign and apologize to Estrada.

"We are not unhappy. May the perjury cases rest in peace," Saguisag said, stressing that the Monday ruling of the Sandiganbayan "showed how unjust what happened to Mr. Estrada was."

"They owe Mr. Estrada an apology, at the very least," he said, adding that Desierto's team did not conduct a thorough inquiry before indicting the ex-President.

State prosecutors suffered a major setback on Monday, when the Sandiganbayan refused to admit their evidence for a perjury case against Estrada.

Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, chair of the anti-graft court's first division, said it could not admit bank records purportedly proving that Estrada lied in declaring his wealth for 1999 because the perjury charge was unclear as to how much he supposedly concealed.

The same charge also alleged that Estrada had interests in at least five corporations that he did not declare in his 1999 statement of assets and liabilities.

But after having been rebuffed by the court regarding Estrada's supposed undeclared wealth, the prosecutors decided not to discuss anymore the issues relating to Valhalla Resources Co., Becks Resources Co., KB Holdings, Verdant Resources Co. and VFC Realty & Development Corp.

Fortun said the defense panel took particular note of how the prosecutors turned gun-shy regarding these corporations.

"To our mind, the prosecution does not really have evidence linking Estrada to the five corporations," he said. "The Ombudsman, knowing fully well that there's no evidence on this (issue), still went ahead and filed the criminal suit to the damage and prejudice of our client's reputation."

No setback

But according to Sen. Joker Arroyo and former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the court's Monday ruling was not a setback for the government.

Speaking at the "Bulung-Pulungan" at the Westin Philippine Plaza hotel, Singson, whose "Juetengate" exposé spelled the beginning of the end for Estrada, pointed out that the perjury case was dismissed on the basis of a technicality, and not on its substance.

He said he was confident that Estrada would end up in jail because of the supposed voluminous evidence backing the more serious plunder charge.

Singson also said that unlike in Estrada's impeachment trial, the cases before the Sandiganbayan had many witnesses to corroborate the evidence.

At the same forum, Arroyo said the Senate would fast-track the passage of a proposed law that would allow private lawyers to help *pro bono* in the prosecution of government cases.

He said the committee of justice and human rights chaired by Sen. Francis Pangilinan had completed its public hearing on the bill, and the committee report was now being prepared for submission to the plenary.

"Private lawyers will now be harnessed to aid the Ombudsman. I think that will be very nice," Arroyo said, adding that it would be like at the impeachment trial when private and state prosecutors worked together. ***With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, AFP***

Police nab Zamboanga bombing suspect

(From page A1)

make of the bomb. The purpose of the bomb is to really inflict casualties and without regard for human life," Cimatu told the INQUIRER after a conference here late yesterday.

"This (the bombs) is really our concern now," Cimatu said.

He said he had directed Task Force Zamboanga head Col. Alexander Yano to coordinate with the Philippine National Police in looking for the bombs.

Johnson's arrest came a day after authorities seized chemical fertilizers used by Muslim rebels in making homemade bombs at Zamboanga's main pier.

The 40 kilos of chemicals sealed in three boxes were found abandoned near the gate of this port, said Yano.

"The chemicals were hidden in three cardboard boxes when our K9 dogs detected the presence of explosive substance," Yano said.

Explosive experts took custody of the chemicals and security was doubled at the Zamboanga Port, a hub of commerce and shipping in Mindanao.

Bomb explodes in Davao

In Davao City, a bomb exploded inside the compound of the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA) in Mintal district on Monday afternoon.

PO2 German Labandero of the Special Anti-Terrorist Unit said they had not established how the bomb exploded inside a room occupied by Ustadz Nejeeb Razul Fernandez.

Fernandez, 42, who suffered minor injuries, was declared out of danger by physicians at the Davao Medical Center.

Aside from the Abu Sayyaf, the military spokesperson yesterday said that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) could also be behind the latest Zamboanga City bombing.

"We still point to the Abu Sayyaf, possibly the MILF terrorists as being involved in this," Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said.

"There were several bombings in the past where they used the same materials, explosive materials . . . which were also attributed to the MILF," he said.

"While the Abu Sayyaf remains our primary (suspect), it's very possible that the MILF was also involved," he added.

Adan said he was basing this theory on reports that the bomb that exploded on Sunday was similar to the ones use in the bombings in Ozamiz City on Feb. 25, 2000.

In the attack on Ozamiz City, 45 people died when three bombs placed in three buses exploded while on board a ferry.

"This is the kind of atrocity that these terrorists can do. For them, they don't care . . . they just want to create terror, panic," he said.

Asked about the possible MILF motive for the bomb attack, Adan said that the MILF viewed the peace talks as just a start of a long process.

Lapses

SPDA chair Randolph Parcasio admitted lapses on the part of security personnel.

Parcasio said the bomb could have been owned by the victim, who is reportedly engaged in treasure hunting.

The victim is from Barangay Barra, Opol, Misamis Oriental. His house in Opol has been padlocked and his neighbors claimed they last saw him on Sunday.

Lawyer Umbra Gandamra, chief of the Office of Muslim Affairs in Cagayan de Oro, said Fernandez was an Islam convert.

"He was a former pastor who embraced Islam after he worked in Saudi Arabia. He has been known as a pious leader of Balik-Islam and it was unlikely that he brought that bomb with him," Gandamra said.

Gandamra said Fernandez knew Islam by heart and that he could speak the 13 different languages of Muslim groups in Mindanao.

He is also the spokesperson of the Professional Muslim Group in Mindanao.

Chief Supt. Felicisimo Khu Jr. Cagayan de Oro City police chief, said Fernandez helped facilitate the Muslim leaders' dialogue with Mayor Vicente Emano early this month.

"He even led the closing prayer during the second dialogue with Mayor Emano at City Hall," Khu added. ***With reports from AFP and Martin P. Marfil in Manila and Dennis Jay Santos and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

TOTO
A WORLD LEADER IN BATHROOM FIXTURES
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JORDAN RETURNS

The second coming

His Airness scored some of his greatest moments at Madison

NEW YORK—Michael Jordan returns to the NBA at the arena where he's had some of his greatest moments.

When he came back to Madison Square Garden in 1995 after his first retirement, he scored 55 points against the New York Knicks. Then there was the 42-point game in 1998. On opening night in 1986, he scored 50 points.

There were four other nights on which Jordan dropped at least 42 points on the Knicks, and at the 1997 All-Star game, he recorded the first triple-double in All-Star history.

"It enthused me to play there every chance I got," said Jordan, who was making his regular-season debut Tuesday night with the Washington Wizards. "There's a lot of memories of playing on that floor, and I'm not going to forget them."

Small forward

After eight preseason games, it all begins to count now for the 38-year-old Jordan, whose second retirement lasted nearly 3 1/2 years. He will start at small forward, wearing a uniform other than Chicago's for the first time in his NBA career.

He returns with six championship rings and with the fourth-highest scoring total in league history. But he is coming back with a team that won only 19 games last season when he was the team president.

"I go in with no preconceived ideas other than just to play hard, and whatever happens, happens," Jordan said Monday.

"I'm in better shape than I thought I would be. I feel really good right now - just want to go in and get off to a good start of the regular season, and hopefully the team feels the same way," Jordan said.

The job of defending Jordan will fall to Latrell Sprewell, who is eager to play the game to end all the questions he's been hearing about Jordan.

Sprewell was also on the opposing team when Magic Johnson made his comeback in 1996 after a 4 1/2-year retirement. Sprewell recalled with a laugh Monday that Johnson made all the highlight reels that evening by making him look bad with a head fake.

'People are anxious'

"It's going to be fun. It's what everybody has wanted to see for some time now. I guess people are anxious to see how good he is," Sprewell said. "I expect him to play hard and to get a lot of shots off."

Jordan was spectacular at times during the preseason, scoring 41 against New Jersey and 18 in one quarter against Miami. But the players guarding Jordan in those games were rookies Richard Jefferson and Brandon Armstrong and the since-released Donny Marshall of the Nets, along with the recently waived Rodney Buford of the Heat.

Sprewell, a much better defender than any of them, is aware that Jordan has been shooting mostly jumpers with the Wizards. Some defenders will try to crowd a jump shooter, forcing him to drive, but Sprewell said he wouldn't go overboard on any such strategy - nor would he apply fullcourt pressure when Jordan brings the ball up as the playmaker.

"He can still go left or right. He has a ton of shot fakes, so I don't think getting up on him will solve the problem," Sprewell said. "One of his strengths is being able to go in any direction, and if he's cut off he's going to go in the other direction. From what I've seen, he can still do that."

Jordan will return to the court with some impressive personal accomplishments. Aside from his six championships and 10 scoring titles with the Bulls, he reached 40 points 201 times, 50 points on 38 different occasions and 60 points five times.

No 3-game losing streak

Not counting his time with the Birmingham Barons when he was playing minor league baseball, Jordan has not had a three-game losing streak since the opening three games of the 1990-91 season.

Coach Jeff Van Gundy, whose first career coaching victory came against Jordan and the Bulls in their 72-win season of 1995-96, recently watched a tape of Jordan's return to the Garden following his first retirement.

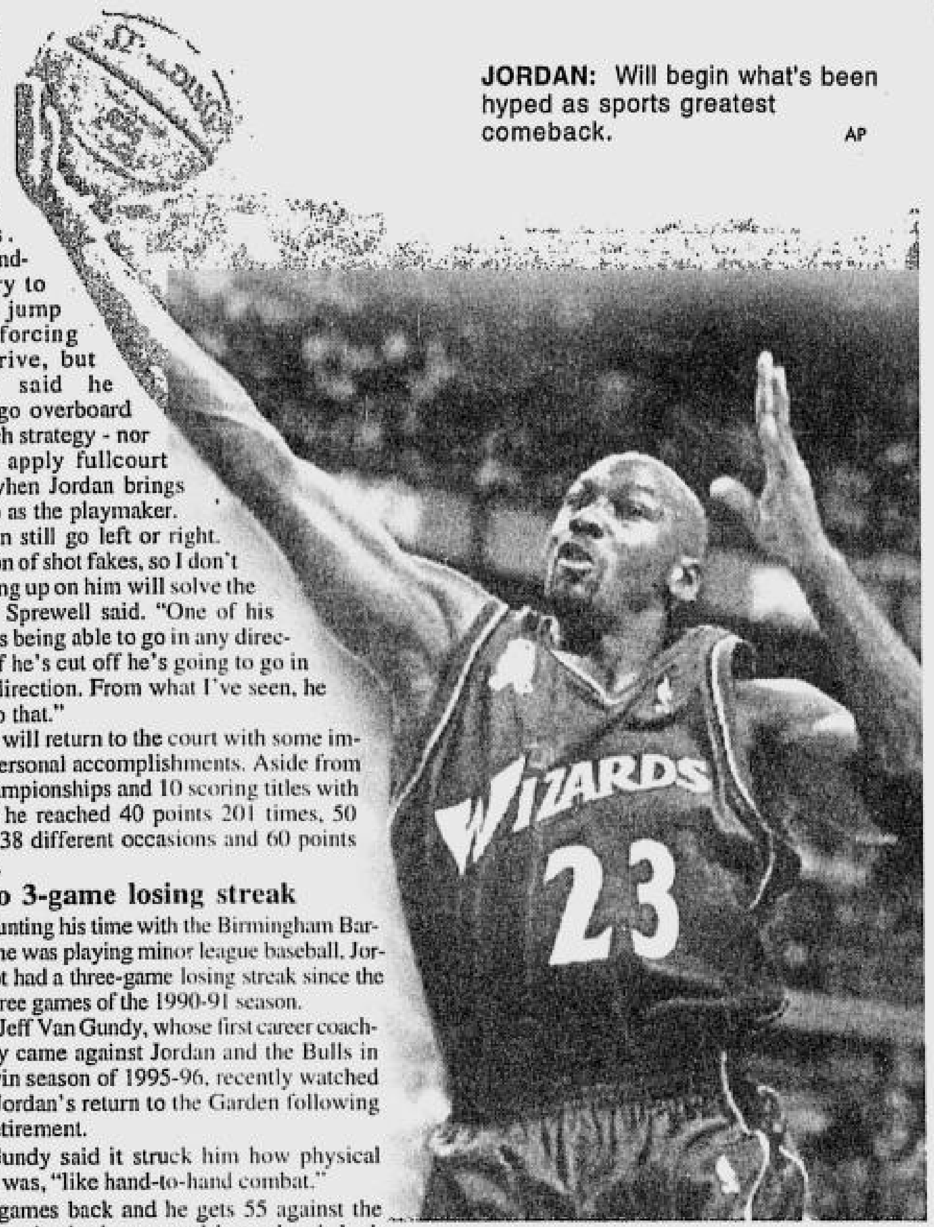
Van Gundy said it struck him how physical that game was, "like hand-to-hand combat."

"Five games back and he gets 55 against the best defense in the league and he makes it look easy," Van Gundy said.

Two weeks ago, Jordan was asked about his most memorable Garden moments. He recalled the game on March 8, 1998, when he brought out the pair of original Air Jordans and got blisters on his feet while scoring 42. He also pointed to a 1993 playoff game when the Bulls blocked three shots by Charles Smith at the end of the fourth quarter to take a 3-2 lead in a best-of-seven series they went on to win in six games.

The Knicks will issue 500-600 media credentials for the game, and it might be the toughest ticket in town - even with the New York Yankees playing Game 3 of baseball's World Series in the Bronx, a few miles (kilometers) to the north.

"Michael has played in games far bigger than this one," Wizards coach Doug Collins said. "Although it is his return, he hasn't played in three years. When you've played in world championship games, that's far bigger than a home-opener in New York, even though this is a big, big game." *AP*



JORDAN: Will begin what's been hyped as sports greatest comeback. AP

Yankees yearn for hot bats

NEW YORK—The Yankees hope escaping the desert heat helps their bats get hot.

After two days of feebly flailing in Phoenix against Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson, the Yankees returned home with thoughts of more inviting targets: Brian Anderson and Miguel Batista, Arizona's scheduled starters in the next two games.

"Those two guys coming up are starting pitchers on a team that made the World Series," Shane Spencer said. "It won't be easy."

New York had a .102 average in the first two games of the Series, going 6-for-59 with two doubles and 20 strikeouts.

Chuck Knoblauch is 0-for-8, Derek Jeter is 0-for-7 and Bernie Williams is 1-for-7, with his first-inning double Saturday night driving in the lone run thus far for the three-time defending champions. Jorge Posada is the only New York player with two hits.

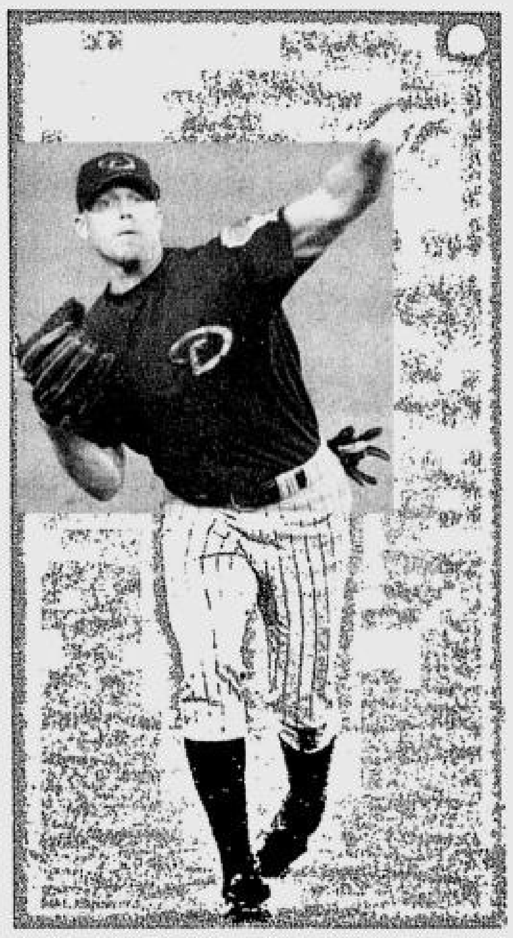
While the Yankees juggled their lineup against Schilling and Johnson, it figures to be back to normal when the Series returns to Yankee Stadium for Game 3 Tuesday night. With the return to American League rules, New York gets back a designated hitter, meaning David Justice, Tino Martinez and Paul O'Neill will all be back in the lineup.

"We are looking forward to going home, no question," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "Good pitching stops good hitting and that's what we have seen the last couple of days with Randy and Curt."

Here's how low the Yankees' offense drooped out west: eight times this season, according to the Elias Sports Bureau, they had as many or more hits in a single inning as they did in two games against the Diamondbacks.

It's a lot like 1996, when the Yankees were outscored 16-1 by Atlanta in the first two games, batting .175, getting 11 hits and going 0-for-9 with runners in scoring position. This time, they're only 0-for-3 with runners in scoring position, getting just four runners past first base.

"We didn't play well here," Jeter said before leaving Phoenix. "We need to come out in Game 3 and win." *AP*



ANDERSON

PBA, BAP try to iron out kinks

By Dennis U. Eroa

LEADERS of the Basketball Association of the Philippines and the PBA meet anew today in a determined effort to finally hammer out an agreement regarding the formation of the Philippine men's basketball team for next year's Asian Pusan Games.

Citing the immensity of regaining the Asiad diadem, the BAP has given the PBA the go-signal to form the national team to Pusan but a final agreement has still to be ironed out between the two basketball bodies.

"I am highly confident that everything will be solved. The BAP isn't demanding, rather it is requesting the PBA for some things regarding this national endeavor," BAP secretary general Graham Lim told the INQUIRER.

Lim admitted that the BAP is requesting for financial assistance for its developmental teams. The BAP has already set aside a thorny issue by agreeing to an all-PBA team.

The Inquirer learned from an insider that the PBA had already turned down three major BAP proposals during their initial meeting. The source also denied a report (not in the Inquirer) that the PBA favors Ron Jacobs as coach of the national team.

Sta. Lucia aims for 9th victory

REST assured that pacesetter Sta. Lucia Realty isn't going to get tired of winning.

After bagging a seat in the Magic Four, Sta. Lucia Realty resumes its bid for the number one spot as it tackles Purefoods tonight in the PBA Governors Cup eliminations at the Philsports Arena.

"We're determined to top the elims," said Sta. Lucia Realty coach Norman Black. The Realtors are sporting an 8-2, win-loss card and will go into the quarterfinals carrying a twice-to-beat privilege.

STANDINGS	W	L
Sta. Lucia	8	2
Talk N' Text	7	3
San Miguel	6	4
Shell	6	4
Pop Cola	6	5
Red Bull	5	5
Ginebra	4	7
Alaska	3	7
Purefoods	3	7
Tanduay	3	7

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports Arena)
5:05 p.m.—Red Bull vs Alaska
7:10 p.m.—Purefoods vs Sta. Lucia

Delasin clinic at Intramuros

SONNY Delasin, father of fast-rising LPGA star Dorothy, will hold a free clinic for jungolfers today at the Intramuros Golf Club course. The clinic, open to players aged 5-to-12, will start at 2 p.m. The clinic is part of the early activities launching the Dorothy Delasin Foundation. It is sponsored by ABSGen Herbs International; Charagon Ampalaya Food Supplement and the Intramuros Golf Club. Assisting Delasin is Taby Tabaning, the noted rulesman who is also a director of the foundation. Interested parties may call Grace Gupana at 0919-2528075.

Andok's seeks revenge vs Negros

Second Phase Standings

Northern Conference	W	L	Southern Conference	W	L
LBC Batangas	9	1	Negros	7	2
Andok's S. Juan	7	2	Cebuana Lhuillier	4	7
FedEx Laguna	6	3	Socsargen-Taguig	3	10
Nueva Ecija	2	7	TPG Davao	2	8

GAMES TODAY (Tinga Gym)
3 p.m.—FedEx Laguna vs Socsargen-Taguig
USLS Bacolod
5:30 p.m.—Andok's San Juan vs Negros

THE ANDOK'S San Juan Knights have revenge in mind when they battle the Negros Slashers at 5:30 p.m. today in the MBA Second Phase in Bacolod City.

Negros trounced San Juan, 111-103, in their first encounter and the Slashers are raring to do a repeat to make up for their disappointing showing at the USLS Gym this conference.

Hard to beat at their homecourt in the First Phase, the Slashers have won only one of their three games at home thus far.

They will have to fare better tonight as the Knights are also determined to bounce back from their 103-100 loss to the LBC Batangas Blades in Lipa City on Friday.

Toting a 7-win, 2-loss slate, the Knights are battling it out with the LBC Batangas Blades (9-1) and the FedEx Laguna Lakers (6-3) for the No. 1 qualifying slot in the Northern Conference.

The No. 1 qualifier will draw a bye while the second and third-ranked teams would have to figure in a best-of-three series for the right to challenge the top qualifier for the conference title.

FedEx Laguna seeks its fourth straight win against Socsargen-Taguig in the 3 p.m. opener at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

FLOWERS

Sepulveda scores double

CEBU—Berry Sepulveda proved too tough for Jennifer Sarip, 6-0, 6-1, in the junior women's 21-under and Floresa Alesna, 6-1, 6-1, in the girls' 16-under to become a double champion at the close of the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 here at the Sancase Tennis Club.

Sepulveda shared the honors with El Santo Santos in the unisex 10-under class, Juan Felipe Mayor in the boys' 12-under, Flynn Golosinda in the boys' 14-under, Janjie Soquino in the boys' 16-under, Claire Cortes in the girls' 12-under, and Melody Barraquias in the girls' 14-under.

On hand to award the Adidas trophies was Cebu youth director John Pages in the Adidas netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Milo and Sports Kids.

Santos of Davao downed Ernesto Pantua of South Cotabato 6-2, 6-3; Mayor of Kalibo, Aklan edged James Canete 6-4, 6-4; Golosinda outlasted Ed Angelo Diez 3-6, 6-1; 7-6; Soquino slammed John Villa 6-4, 6-4; Cortes nipped Jin Querubin 6-7, 6-4, 6-4; Barraquias of Dumaguete spanked Anafil Salomon 6-3, 6-3.

Guba ousts Barraguias, 8-3

BACOLOD—Yanick Guba of La Carlota ousted towering McLean Barraguias, 8-3, to barge into the final of the boys' 18-under division against Manila's Chase Tinio in the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop here at the Negros Occidental Tennis Association (NOTA) clay courts.

Tinio routed Janjie Soquino, 8-1.

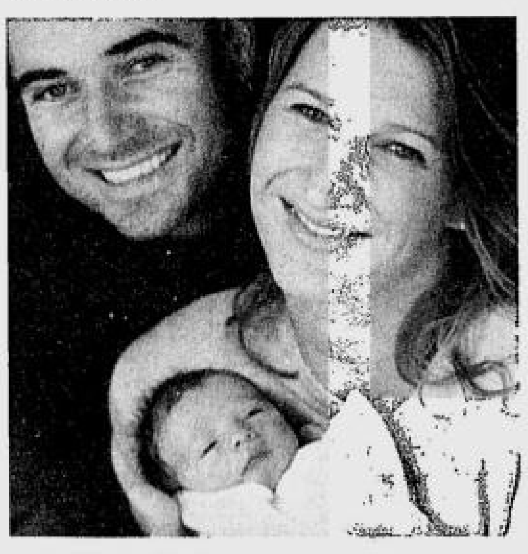
Guba set himself up for a double following an 8-0 triumph over Ronnel Bantigue to arrange a showdown with Soquino, who downed Arthmetico Lim, 8-4, in the boys' 16-under bracket.

Martina Guba edged Renan Mirto, 8-7, then demolished Sally Siso, 8-1, to gain a championship seat in the unisex 10-under and girls' 12-under categories, respectively, as the Guba clan poised themselves to dominate the Milo netfest organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by adidas and Sports Kids.

Other finalists include Gerard Bergavera, who whipped Christian Canlas, 8-2, and Daniel Macalino, who scored an 8-5 upset over Juan Felipe Mayor in the boys' 12-under class. Lim, an 8-3 victor over John Villa, will next meet Mauric Lao, who ousted Bergavera, 8-3, in the boys' 14-under group.

IT'S JAO AGAIN

Multi-titled Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-YRS Racing Team displays his winning form during the final rounds of the National Super Bike Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas recently. Jao steered his trusty Yamaha R6 to back-to-back victory in this prestigious series sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).



REUTERS

TENNIS SUPER BABY

Andre Agassi and wife Steffi Graf pose with their newborn son, Jaden Gil, shortly after he was born Oct. 27 at a Las Vegas hospital, weighing 5.14 lbs and arriving three weeks in advance. The couple married in a private ceremony last Oct. 22 after they began dating in 1999 when they both won the French Open.

Celebrities Subic guests

THERE will be an added but highly interesting attraction when the Rexona National Beach Football championships take place on Nov. 3 at the Waterfront in Subic Bay Freeport, which drew teams from Luzon and the Visayas-Mindanao.

Movie celebrities, lifestyle and sports figures have been invited to play in a "battle of the sexes" before the regular beach football championship game.

Among the invited movie stars are Via Veloso, Maricel Morales and Ace Espinosa.

Baguio Fil-Am golf draws 920 players

A RECORD field of 920 players paid entry fees to join the historic 52nd Fil-Am Men's International Golf Tournament on Dec. 3-8 at Camp John Hay (CJH) and Baguio Country Club (BCC) in Baguio City.

CJH manager Heiner Maulbecker and BCC manager Anthony de Leon, co-chairmen of the tournament, however, said that only 620 of the 920 entries were accommodated to ensure quality play, more fun and fellowship among the golfers in the 72-hole golf tilt presented by Smart Communications and Ericsson.

The challenging par-69, 5,001-yard championship golf course of CJH and the fabulous par-61, 4,038-yard scenic course of BCC are the venues of the Fil-Am Golf Tournament acknowledged as the biggest amateur golf tournament in the world according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Defending champion CAP-Southwoods, aiming for a three-peat, heads the cast of teams. The team is beefed up with players Angelo Que, Jerome Delariarte, Juami Rocha, Toru Nakajima, Montito Garcia, Jun Jun Plana, Artemio Murakami and Hanson So.

Canlubang, Fil-Am's successful club with 11 championships, will not be around this year. Ditto with last year's runner-up Calatagan and third placer Wack Wack.

According to Fil-Am overall coordinator Shean Bedi, teams that will try to stop Southwoods' title run are Mizuno-Master Sports, Master Sports-St. Luke's, Capitol Hills and Forest Hills.

Armstrong team yields no doping evidence

PARIS—Tests on blood and urine samples taken from Lance Armstrong's US Postal Service team during the 2000 Tour de France have so far revealed no evidence of doping, a French judicial official said Monday, adding that new tests have been requested. "For now, we don't have test results that prove that doping products have been taken," Francois Franchi, the assistant to the Paris prosecutor handling a judicial inquiry against US Postal, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

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BASKETBALL: NBA –Washington Wizards vs New York Nicks at 8:30 a.m. on Star Sports (r - 8:30 p.m. on ESPN), Portland Trailblazers vs LA Lakers at 11:30 a.m. on Star Sports (r – 11:30 p.m. on ESPN)

BASEBALL: MLB World Series, Game 3 at 9 a.m. on ESPN and Studio 23

POOL: World Pool Masters 2001 at 8 a.m. (r) on ESPN

TENNIS: Masters Series (Paris) Early Round Coverage Day #1 at 8 a.m. (r) and 10 a.m. (r), Day #2 at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

ITF WOMEN'S CIRCUIT

Arevalo wins, faces Malaysian today

By MARC ANTHONY REYES

TO MAKE it to the next round, Philippines' No. 1 player Czarina Mae Arevalo had to make a difficult job: Booting out the only other Filipina in the draw, Alyssa Anne Labay.

At noon yesterday, the 16-year-old Arevalo, a wildcard entry, carried out the painful task, taking out her 15-year-old compatriot, 6-1, 6-1, to make the second round of the Union Cement-ITF Philippine women's tennis circuit at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

"I was really desperate to have a company in the draw," said Arevalo who ironically had an easy time disposing off her younger, inexperienced rival. "But I have no choice. Now I will have to fight for the country's colors all by myself."

And that would be a lot tougher mission because she will face Malaysian sensation Khoo Chin Bee, who ousted top seeded Korean Kim Jin-Hee, 6-4, 6-2, today. Kim is ranked 419th in the world, while Khoo is No. 810.

"I will try my best to win although I'm very aware what Khoo is capable of doing. I expect an uphill battle tomorrow (Wednesday)," Arevalo, who was a member of the national team which won the bronze medal in the recent Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games.

At a young age, Arevalo is already the country's best hope in women's tennis since former top player Maricris Fernandez had already quit the sport, while Jennifer Saret is still undecided on pursuing her career.

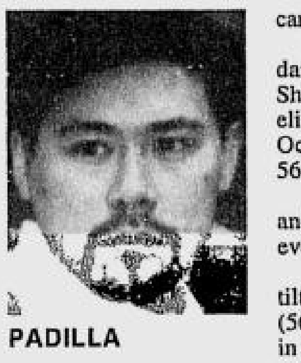
Khoo, SEAG bronze winner in singles and mixed doubles, surprised Korea's No. 8 ranked player, with her strong serves and deep top spin to become the favorite in the two-leg tournament that gives away $10,000 in total cash prize.

But Arevalo, an 11th grader at the Angelicum College in Quezon City, will have the hometown crowd by her side in their centercourt showdown which could either end or sustain the Philippines' campaign in the tournament.

Third seed Shruti Dhawan of India and No. 8 Nana Wada of Japan were also upset by their respective rivals. Dhawan bowed to qualifier Lam Po-Kuen of Hong Kong, 6-2, 6-3, while Wada fell to wild card Chuang Chia-Jung of Chinese Taipei, 6-2, 6-0.

Other winners in the eve[illegible] ere favorites Keiko Tameishi o[illegible] who downed Korean qualifier K[illegible] Ji-Young, 7-5, 6-4, and Chinese-Taipei's Weng Tzu-Ting who beat compatriot Chao Hsiao-Han, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

Tac rips own RP shoot record


PADILLA

NATIONAL shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla displayed his usual deadly form to rule three pistol competitions, in the process breaking a Philippine record, in the recent monthly eliminations at the Marine range in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

The 37-year-old general manager of Spring Cooking Oil fired 569 points to erase his old mark of 568 as he easily beat Gilbert Escobar (547) and Arthur Cabinian (543) in the standard pistol event.

Padilla also prevailed in the rapid fire and center fire competitions. He tallied 579 points in rapid fire to pull away from Carlos Vincent Medina (562) and Inocentes Dionesa (559) and 572 in center fire to whip Dionesa (558) and Cabinian (552).

"I'm so happy to break my own mark," said Padilla of his standard pistol performance. "I credit my dad (former Olympian Mariano "Tom" Ong) who kept pushing me to focus more on the sport for my fruitful campaign."

Padilla easily surpassed the standards set by the Philippine National Shooting Association, which opened the eliminations for the national squad on Oct. 21—562 for standard pistol and 568 for rapid fire.

Carolino Gonzales, Susan Aguado and Therese Cantada ruled the other events.

Gonzales shot 576 in the air pistol tilt to topple younger brother Marcelo (560) and Gilbert Escobar (559) and 543 in free pistol to rout Rene Marterior and Marcelo, who scored identical 527s.

Aguado came through with 371 points to edge Paulette Crespillo (368) and Therese Cantada (365) in the women's air pistol competition, while Cantada posted 570 to get back at Aguado (555) and Crespillo (504) in the ladies' sport pistol match.

The PNSA set 571, 378, 549 and 570 as qualifying marks for men's air pistol, women's air pistol, free pistol and ladies' sport pistol, respectively.

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Slow justice for Carlo

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

NO doubt there are flaws in our justice system. Carlo's long quest for justice is a case in point. Seven agonizing years after his puzzling death, the case remains unsolved. What happened?

Briefly, here's what happened: In the early morning of Nov. 4, 1994, my eldest son Jose "Carlo" Iñigo III met a bloody death under mysterious circumstances. Carlo was only 33 when he succumbed to a broken skull and other body injuries, including a black eye, after he was allegedly sideswiped on MacArthur Highway by a wayward tricycle near the waiting shed of the Town and Country North subdivision in Abangan, Marilao, Bulacan. Our family suspects foul play.

But up to now, the case has remained unsolved chiefly because police investigators are encountering some difficulties in ascertaining the identity of the suspects and thus they are not making any progress. The killers are still at large. Yet, despite the slow pace of justice, we are not giving up, hoping that police authorities will continue conducting further investigations until Carlo's killers are apprehended.

'Tomorrow as Christian Filipinos mark All Saints' Day, our family, defeated but dignified, will gather around Carlo's simple but well-kept grave at the Marilao Memorial Garden, reminiscing about the fond memories he left behind. Carlo will be missed but not forgotten.

In my case, I am particularly relieved to know that there are well-meaning friends who share my grief over the loss of a good son, people whose care and concern I will always remember among them, Paul Mortel of Marikina City and Carlo's *ninong*, Rudy Navarro, the hard-hitting columnist and sports editor of Tempo.

Paul, a longtime friend I have not even met personally, sent me a letter few years back, a portion of which is reprinted as follows: "In the meantime that the case remains unsolved, please be consoled with the fact that whoever is guilty of this crime, he has already paid for it as if he were behind bars because the guilty conscience is the invisible jailer in the world."

Several months after Carlo's death, Rudy wrote: "Since then, Marilao cops and the Bulacan PNP have dragged their feet in probing the unsolved crime. Obviously, the cops have been after more profitable pursuits (like jueteng?) to waste time in going after Carlo's killer.

"Are the Marilao police and Bulacan PNP that dense? Or are they playing footsie with the killer who could be influential, even untouchable? Worse, could the killer be a cop or kin?

"Oh, the kind of lawmen we have today. *Nakakasuka talaga.*"

SPORTS TRIVIA. Ballroom dancing has unique history that has contributed to its current popularity as a recreational and competitive sport. Also called dancesport in international competitions, ballroom dancing gained widespread appeal in England during the early 1920s among the working class who attended public dance halls or popular assemblies. In April 1995, the ruling body for the sport, the International Dance Sport Federation, announced that the International Olympic Committee has granted IOC recognition to ballroom dancing or dancesport, a major first step toward having the sport recognized as an Olympic event.

For inquiries call fax phone (044) 933-1214.

Aspiras, Mayor stunned by foes

LAWYER Ventura Aspiras and dentist Jenny Mayor, both of the elite Harmony section of the 2001 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express (PEACE 2001), bowed out in the quarterfinals of the best-of-three stepladder championship knockout matches held recently at Land Bank's Multi-Purpose Hall in Makati City.

Weakened by his lower grand prix points in the qualifying phase, Aspiras, the defending champion lost to Gary Legaspi, 0.5-1.5, while Mayor, the 1999 champion and a three-time grand prix topnotcher, was blanked by Romel Asoque, 2-0.

Dennis San Juan, meanwhile, lived up to his billing as the highest rated player of the event by winning the finals in a sudden-death tiebreaker against actuarial practitioner Tyrone Guya of Nippon Life.

PEACE 2001, a yearlong monthly series of Active Chess tournaments participated in by more than a hundred business executives and professionals, was sponsored by DNS Company and organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) in cooperation with Belgosa Media Systems, Land Bank, Tabilog Cargo Services, Travel Cafe, Topmost Engineering and the National Sports Grill.

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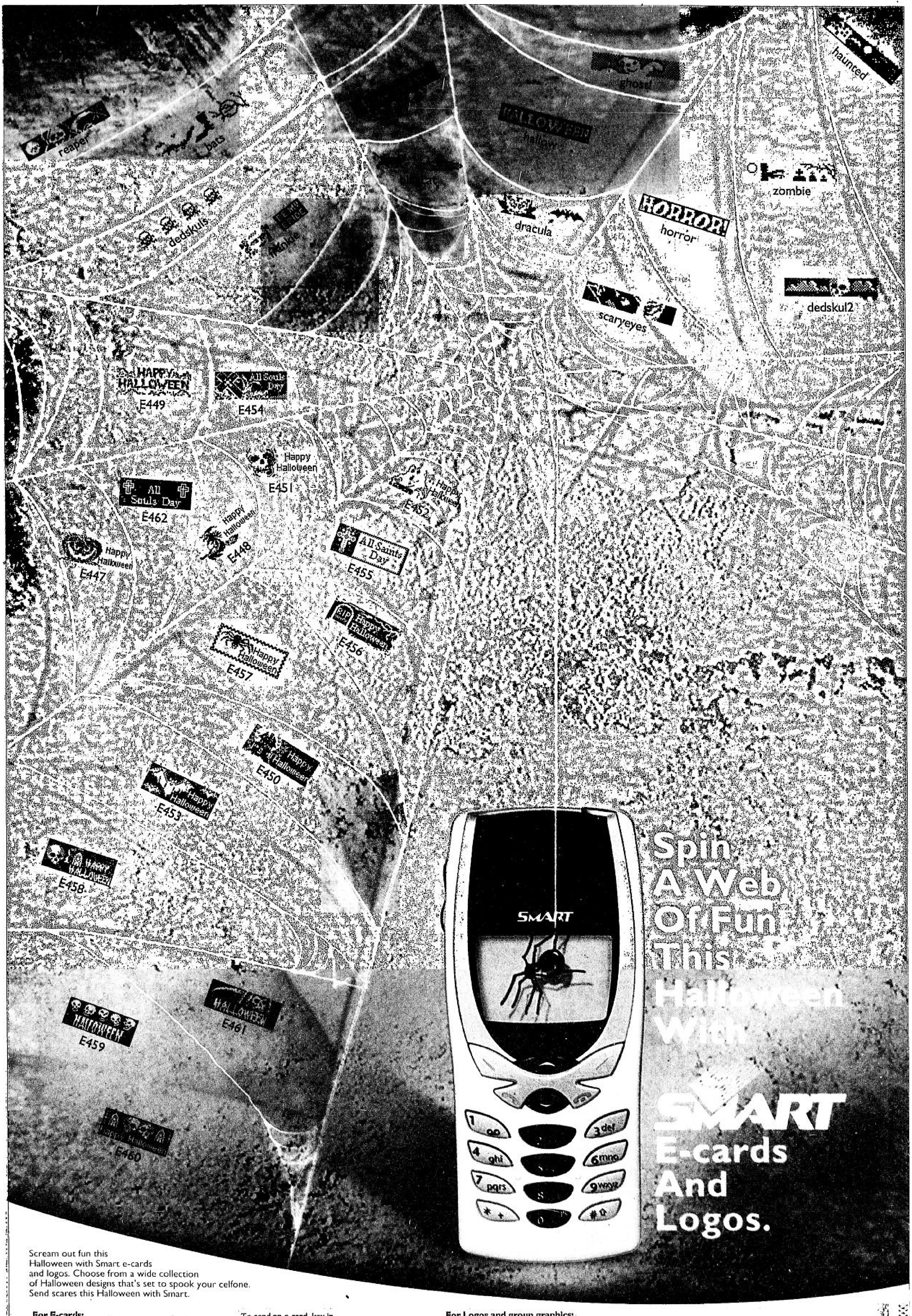
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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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THE LONG WEEKEND

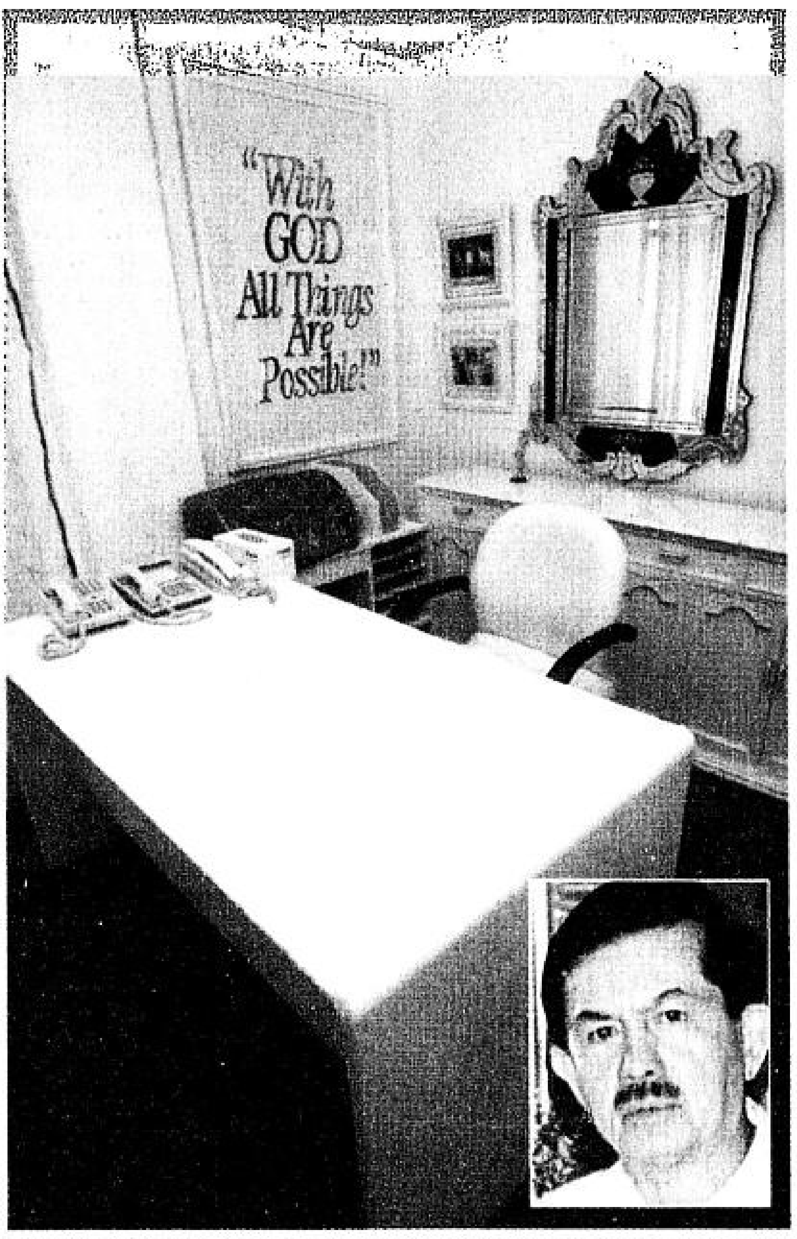
'Be vigilant, be very vigilant'

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN, ALCUIN PAPA AND ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

DEPUTY Director General Hermogenes E. Ebdane Jr., chief of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf), yesterday urged the public to remain vigilant against kidnapping for ransom and other crimes during the long weekend from today to Nov. 4.

"While we remember our departed loved ones,

BE VIGILANT/A22


"With GOD All Things Are Possible!"

HAUNTED? The former office of Dacer (inset) photographed a few days after he and his driver disappeared. ERIK ARAZAS

Footsteps, moanings heard from Buddy Dacer's former office at Manila Hotel

BY LEAH SALTERIO

THE SOUL of a dead person, it is said, remains restless when he or she still has unfinished business on earth.

Nearly a year after the disappearance of PR man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer, his ghost reportedly haunts his empty public relations office at the Manila Hotel.

Dacer disappeared with his driver Emmanuel Corbito on Nov. 24, 2000. Two police officers had been charged with their abduction and murder, but the question of who ordered their killing remains unanswered.

Now it is said that Dacer's office at the Manila Hotel is haunted. Hotel guests have reported hearing eerie sounds from inside the empty office, which occupies the 357-358 corner suites on the third floor of the old wing of the hotel.

The old wing is now reportedly closed, dark and hot, with no air conditioning and no lights.

There have been hotel guests who were said to have complained that they heard footsteps, voices, even moaning inside the room, especially at night.

"There were guests staying on the third floor who requested to be moved to another room after they heard noises or strange sounds," said a hotel employee who requested anonymity.

"There were also guests on the second floor who complained about noises on the floor above them," the employee added.

However, Ed Bognot, front office manager of

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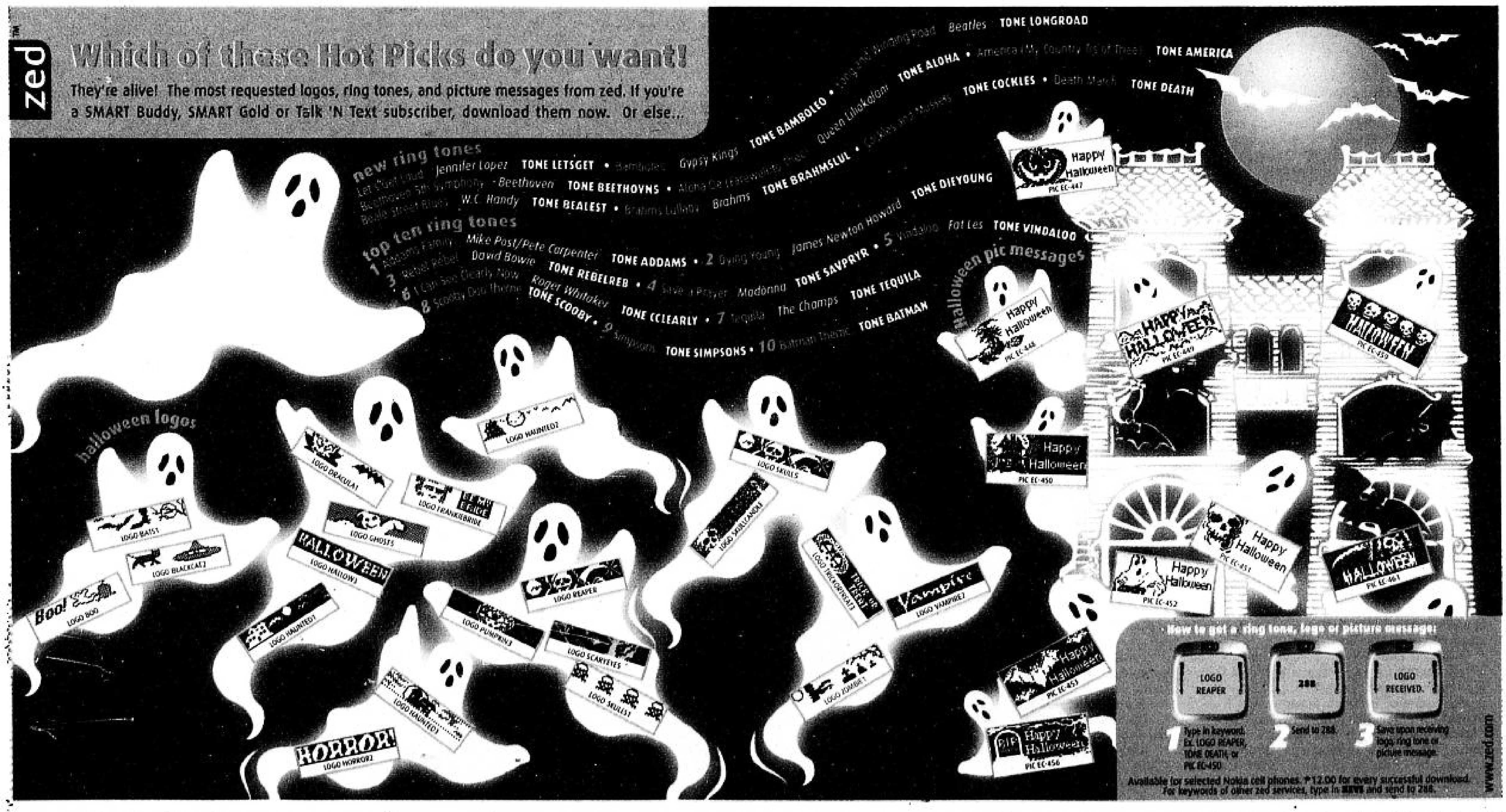
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Cops get tongue-lashing for solving case

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

THEY were merely doing their job of running after criminals, even if the suspects happened to be from their ranks.

But instead of getting at least a pat on the back for solving an ambush-robbery in New Manila, Quezon City on Oct. 18, members of the Central Police District criminal investigation unit (CIU) reportedly got a tongue-lashing from the CPD director, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor.

CPD sources said Tor berated CPD-CIU officers, including its chief Supt. Raul Medina, after the involvement of two Camp Crame-based policemen in the ambush was reported in the media.

PO3 Reynaldo Cervano and PO3 Rogelio Santos, both of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), were charged before the Quezon City prosecutor's office over the weekend after a witness identified them as responsible for the Oct. 18 ambush and robbery.

CPD sources told the INQUIRER that the supposed tongue-lashing brought down the morale of CIU investigators.

"It pained us," one officer said. "It's as if they are protecting those bad eggs."

Tor, however, denied he berated any official. He said he questioned some officials following reports of the CIDG policemen's involvement in the heist.

"It's no big deal," Tor said in a phone interview. "But our policy is that when there's an ongoing operation, it should not be leaked to the media."

But CPD sources maintained that Tor berated Medina and the homicide unit head, Chief Insp. Rodolfo Jaraza.

"Those involved here are not mere policemen, they are with the CIDG which is supposed to be the primary unit running after syndicates," the source said.

Cervano and Santos, formerly with the PNP Special Action force based in Laguna, were turned over by their superiors during the weekend upon learning of the CPD investigation.

A third policeman, SPO1 Roberto Rusit, was allegedly killed by Cervano and Santos after he sustained an injury during the ambush.

CPD investigators believed that an official could be involved in the criminal activities of the two CIDG policemen.

Victim Nolly Sotoza positively identified Rusit and the two others as among those who carried out the ambush.

Sotoza was driving his Ford Expedition and was with his partner Imelda Olan when a group of armed men blocked their path on Sta. Cecilia Street in New Manila.

He was in a convoy with his cousin Maher Sotoza who was driving a Toyota Tamaraw FX filled with cellular phones and accessories.

When he saw the roadblock, Sotoza reportedly opened fire and hit Rusit. The policemen fired back, hitting Sotoza in the head and body.

Sotoza still managed to drive his vehicle to the nearby St. Luke's Hospital. The suspects took Maher and his vehicle.

Maher was later found dead in Las Piñas.

A few days later, a witness contacted the CPD and identified Cervano and Santos as among those responsible for the ambush.

'Be vigilant, be very vigilant

(From page A21)

let us remember also that criminal elements always look for opportunities to ply their trade," Ebdane said. "With many families visiting the cemeteries, there may be chances for them to attempt kidnap-for-ransom or other crimes, so let us remain vigilant."

The Philippine National Police chief, Director General Leandro Mendoza, also warned people who will go to cemeteries against kidnappers targeting rich looking people.

Mendoza said he has already instructed policemen to be on the lookout for "organized criminal elements, including kidnap-for-ransom groups, which may strike at members of affluent families who will gather at the cemeteries."

Mendoza, too, urged the public to take precautions against robbers who might break into houses during the All Saints' Day break.

He said police stations all over the country have "historical records" of complaints of robberies during this season.

He advised city residents planning to leave for the provinces to think twice before leaving their homes empty.

He said the PNP hierarchy has already ordered all 16 regional offices to conduct a "maximum deployment of personnel along major travel routes and (the) vicinity of cemeteries and memorial parks."

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Cresencio Maralit said policemen were instructed to "provide security and ensure the smooth flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in crowded cemeteries as well as Public Assistance Centers."

This early, Maralit said, police expect to be deluged with complaints ranging from petty theft to snatching from cemetery visitors.

Southern Police Director Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez has deployed about 3,000 policemen to areas in and around cemeteries in the southern part of the city.

He said he ordered the chiefs of police of the five cities and two municipalities in southern Manila to stay on alert to maintain peace and order in their areas as part of their security precautions every All Saints' Day.

Even officials of SPD were denied leaves on Nov. 1, Gutierrez said.

He said members of the SPD are already keeping a close watch on bus terminals, shopping malls, and diplomatic establishments in their areas for criminal activities including terrorism.

Gutierrez also reminded the public that carrying of firearms, knives and drinking liquor inside cemeteries was not allowed.

Motorists should also follow the traffic re-routing plan the Metro Manila Development Authority released earlier, Gutierrez said.

In Quezon City and Caloocan, plainclothes policemen will be deployed in bus terminals and cemeteries in these cities.

Mandaluyong City Mayor Benjur Abalos intensified Oplan Kaluluwa 2001 in the city to ensure orderly and convenient visits to the cemetery.

Traffic enforcers will be deployed in the Mandaluyong City Public Cemetery on Aglipay Street and the Catholic Cemetery on Boni Avenue to ease traffic jams.

The city government will also strictly implement its ordinances banning the carrying of firearms and other deadly weapons and the drinking of liquor inside the cemeteries.

Abalos said first-aid volunteers and medical teams would have their stations to aid the public in case of emergency.

The Mandaluyong City Traffic Department has also issued an advisory for motorists to take alternate routes and avoid passing on Aglipay Street (Barangay Hulo) and Boni Avenue (from Gabby's to P. Cruz St.) on Nov. 1.

NTIGL BANTIGUE
SIGN RESIGN
BANTIGU BANTIG BILL
CORRUPT CORRUPT

BARANGAY officials of Pandacan on Monday picketed WPD Station 10 to urge Bantigue to quit.
ERIK ARAZAS

Mayor orders relief, probe of Pandacan police chief

BY JEROME ANING

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday ordered the director of the city police to relieve the commander of the Pandacan police station and place him under investigation.

The mayor's order was his reply to last month's petitions of 33 barangay chairs and of 73 Western Police District Station 10 members. Both petitions demanded the ouster of Supt. Jose Victor Bantigue.

Atienza told the WPD director, Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., that he has to heed the clamor of the barangay leaders, policemen and residents of Pandacan.

"We cannot allow a situation where a station commander cannot provide effective leadership to his own men and has lost the support of the community he is supposed to serve," the mayor said.

On Monday, about 50 Pandacan residents picketed Station 10 headquarters on De Jesus Street to express their opposition to Bantigue's continued stay in office.

This alone, according to Atienza, "has rendered Bantigue ineffective in his present post."

Bantigue's alleged offenses included, among others, corruption, coddling drug pushers and video *karera* operators, mismanagement, ignorance of the law and "martial-law type leadership." They also said the police colonel was "paranoid" and "arrogant."

The policemen and barangay leaders claimed they were upset over Bantigue's order to release several drug pushers they arrested in legitimate operations.

They alleged that the police colonel filed additional or "invented" charges against the suspects, or detained them beyond the period prescribed by law so that the prosecutor would release them because of a technicality.

The mayor said he has reason to believe that Bantigue's actions resulted in the demoralization of policemen under him and caused tension at the Pandacan police station. Residents also expressed fears that the sale and use of illegal drugs would become rampant if Bantigue remained in his post, Atienza added.

METROBRIEFS

Boss slain

CALOOCAN police said they have neutralized the notorious Samar Group, said to be responsible for jeepney robberies along Rizal Avenue in Caloocan, following the killing of one of the gang's leaders in a shootout Monday night. But police have yet to ascertain the real identity of the Samar Group leader known only as "Nonong." Another gang member, Danilo Arsenal, was arrested. On Monday at 9:40 p.m., a witness told members of a mobile patrol unit that five men had just pulled off a heist and escaped toward 2nd Avenue, said Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Caloocan police chief. Three policemen chased the five suspects toward MH Del Pilar Street. When the lawmen ordered the suspects to stop, the robbers opened fire. The policemen fired back and hit the gang's alleged leader. Nonong was taken to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center where he died two hours later. *Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

Suspect falls

MURDER suspect Romeo Alvarade was arrested yesterday morning while being treated at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City for a gunshot wound in the left hip. Alvarade, 45, of Pasay City, is the prime suspect in the killing of his brother-in-law Antonio Francisco, 39, on Oct. 8, said Supt. Eduardo dela Cerna, Pasay City police chief. Alvarade shot and killed Francisco when the latter accused him of molesting the victim's daughter. Police said Alvarade was shot by an unidentified man about 3:15 a.m. yesterday. Policemen took Alvarade to the hospital. While Alvarade was being treated, police identified him as the man who killed Francisco and arrested him. *Alcuin Papa*

Woman mobbed

ALMA de la Cruz, 22, could not escape the wrath of a mob who chased her, beat her up and hauled her to the Malabon police station for stealing the cash, clothes and cell phone of housewife Estela Nepomuceno yesterday morning. De la Cruz, whom witnesses described as attractive, was all bruised and bloodied when Malabon policemen arrested her. Police said De la Cruz, of Northbay Boulevard, North Navotas, sneaked into Nepomuceno's house about 9 a.m. just as Nepomuceno woke up and checked the room of her children. When she got back to her room, she was surprised to see it in disarray, police said. Nepomuceno said she found De la Cruz hiding in a cabinet. The suspect tried to run but Nepomuceno screamed for help. Neighbors chased the suspect. Police said the suspect, who admitted to be a member of the Salisi Gang, was high on drugs. *Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

Slain by teeners

ALBERTO J. DOROJA, 22, set out with his friends to visit Mary Jane Gonzales on Capulong Street in Tondo, Manila around 3 a.m. yesterday. But at the first hint of trouble, his friends disappeared, leaving him in the hands of four teeners who stabbed him to death near the corner of Velasquez and Herbosa streets, said SPO1 Benito A. Cabatbat, of the Western Police District homicide section. Police arrested one of the suspects, a 16-year-old youth. The three others, two of them identified as Jon-jon and Dodong, are still at large, Cabatbat said. The boys first beat up Doroja and then stabbed him. *Philip C. Tubeza*

No help from Sky; Destiny busy

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

WHY stick to SkyCable when there are better options waiting to be tapped? Yes, why?

The question being asked around is, why suffer when you pay good cash?

The agitated voice on the phone, demanding instant changes, swears something must be done, right away.

She ticks off several grievances:

They have a Japanese swimming coach who has done nothing but increase the times of national tankers. He's so strict he would even slap swimmers who would not keep up with his instructions.

There are three fencing coaches who have not delivered but have remained here for eight years now.

There's an archery trainer from a former Russian province who definitely is of no use because he could not communicate in English.

This is basically the same case with a Russian psychologist who has obviously been of no help.

These imported trainers, including the one in bowling, are paid huge monthly salaries in dollars, are housed and fed using the people's taxes.

So why can't we get rid of them, she says, the way the track and field association has successfully shifted to local talents?

Because, the voice answers her own question, the Philippine Sports Commission, other than being blind and dumb, is grossly mismanaged.

* * *

Why suffer for the mindlessness of political appointees in the sports hierarchy?

She's told to better direct that question to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who is hopelessly bitten by the travel bug and who is herself being accused of mismanagement.

Anyway, if you think we are being robbed and cheated by our sleepy sports leaders, try and assess the rotten setup with our metropolitan cable television.

SkyCable, other than announce impending monthly fee increases, has suddenly stopped beaming major channels, including the well-admired sports specials.

Not their fault, alleges Sky, because the Star TV Group, which gave them a raw deal in this very anxious period, is clearly blackmailing them.

As explained in media releases, Sky is deep in debt with Star. But other than increase rates and force it to pay its arrears, Star instantly pulled off the major channels, like National Geographic, Star Sports and ESPN, thereby leaving majority of national subscribers grumbling and staring in the dark.

* * *

What would cable television be like without live NBA action?

OK, the non-showing of baseball specials, highlighted by the current World Series between New York and Arizona, could be bearable.

But the real sting comes with the opening of the NBA season which—you sure have been waiting for this—features the Third Coming of all-time basketball great Michael Jordan.

We've already missed Air Jordan's pre-opening NBA appearances. But his impending absence from our SkyCable sports channels come NBA opening time could prove unbearable.

My friend Pete Aguila, incurable sports bug, refused to wait and speculate. He moved swiftly, pulled the plug off Sky and has subscribed to Parañaque Cable. He reports of relief and pure delight.

Seasoned sports scribe Tito Talao of Bulletin/Tempo says he's offering his finest possessions, including his regular masseur and a choice ringside seat in the press box, to anybody who could bring the Washington Wizards' opening NBA game against the New York Knicks to his living room TV set.

Writes Tito T.: "Oh, boy, I feel I'll go bonkers if that game passes me by without as much as catching a glimpse of Michael Jordan making his first official move on the basketball court after three years."

* * *

The poor sportswriter, of course, is not alone in his anxiety.

Practically all my neighbors, hopeless NBA buffs, feel similarly miserable.

Why stick to SkyCable when there are other options waiting to be tapped?

For us down here, the only option left is Destiny Cable.

One friend in Alabang tried it, dialed 817-93-93, but was advised he could be accommodated on Nov. 5 at the earliest.

Me? I have been dialing Destiny for nearly two hours now but, if the line is not busy, the mechanical voice of the operator says "Sorry, all circuits are busy now."

I was later told by that friend who had been promised a Nov. 5 connection that he succeeded in making contact only after two days of trying.

It's very urgent. Time is running out.

But all of us hopeless NBA and Jordan diehards could do is cry for help.

SkyCable, just like Butch Tuason and the Philippine Sports Commission, will definitely be of no help.

Yes, Sky is accusing the Star TV Group of blackmail. But isn't raising monthly fees and offering trash to paying viewers, which Sky is doing, itself a shameless stick-up?

* * *

(FINE FELLOW: An eternal candle for Pons Africa, 56, a dear old friend, favorite wit and playmate, who will be laid to rest in Lipa City after an 11 a.m. Mass at the San Sebastian Cathedral today. Pons, a sportsman incapable of uttering nasty words even in trying moments, will always be remembered warmly for his kindness and quiet generosity. He had provided us lots of comfort and fine company.)

Driver shoots fellow driver

TRICYCLE driver Reynaldo M. Tiglao, 32, shot dead a fellow driver for jokingly slapping him in the face. On Saturday, Tiglao, of San Andres Bukid, was waiting for passengers and was playing "sipa" when Richard T. Beralde, 25, passed by on his tricycle and nearly sideswiped him, said SPO1 Edgardo Ko.

Beralde got off his tricycle and "jokingly slapped Tiglao, who did not retaliate and just left the terminal," Ko said. Sunday morning, Beralde was caught in traffic in an alley near Diamante Street.

Tiglao, who was following him, got off his tricycle, walked to Beralde and shot him in the forehead with a pistol, Ko said. Tiglao casually walked back to his tricycle and fled, Ko said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Footsteps, moanings heard . . .

(From page A21)

the Manila Hotel, dismissed the sounds coming from the suites as mere fragments of imagination.

"Sometimes it's only in our subconscious that we hear certain sounds," Bognot said. "In the old wing, it can be the wind, doves on the awning, the traffic of container vans along Roxas Boulevard, the sound of the water tank, the TV or the lampshade when you turn it on.

"There are some people who are easily frightened and get goose bumps at the mere thought of anything strange."

Bognot said he has been with the hotel for 25 years, starting as night housekeeper. He became night manager for seven years before he was promoted to his present position.

Ghost stories

"I would do the rounds nightly and check the rooms and corridors, but I never encountered anything strange," he said. "We always investigate the complaints of guests, but there were no reports of seeing ghosts in the hotel.

"Our former general manager, Miguel Cerqueda, stayed here for 22 years and he had no strange experience inside the hotel. We also had a Japanese GM and we didn't hear any complaints from him. I am really surprised at the talk that there are ghosts here."

Annie Ringor, the hotel's former public relations manager who is now part of an all-woman publicist agency, told the Inquirer of hearing stories of ghosts in the hotel.

"The old wing, fronting Rizal Park, is said to be where the spirits exist," said Ringor, who worked for the hotel for 12 years.

"But I slept there, went around even at night and I never experienced anything strange," she added.

All-white

Dacer was always in an all-white outfit and was known as "The Man in White." Everything in his empty office is also in white, from the furnishings and equipment, down to the walls and ceilings. The TV and its remote control device are also in white.

Dacer's PR office occupied the suites for nearly 10 years. The PR man reportedly preferred to work late nights in his office using his white manual typewriter.

Dacer and his firm helped make the careers of politicians and businessmen.

Days after Dacer disappeared, his employees took turns staying in the Manila Hotel office overnight, waiting for news about their missing boss. Most of them feared for their lives.

Bognot said that a month after Dacer's disappearance, hotel management got word from Dacer's daughters, Amy Dacer-Henson and Sabina Dacer-Reyes, that they were closing the office and terminating the firm's contract with the hotel.

The office furnishings were removed as the rooms were restored to their original form as hotel suites. Documents were packed and brought to the Dacer residence in Parañaque.

Still unoccupied

Up to this day, Dacer's former office remains unoccupied.

"That's because of the low occupancy rate of the hotel and not because of any other reasons," Bognot said. "There are many guests who prefer the tower block because the rooms there have a good view of Intramuros and even Corregidor.

"The old wing has a higher room rate because that's where the large superior suites are located," Bognot informed. "The rooms have high ceilings, more furnishings and are definitely bigger."

Hotel insiders said the old wing is closed at the moment, with no air-conditioning system or even lights in the corridors.

But Bognot refused to confirm this. "The last quarter of the year is usually considered peak months, but this year, there is really a low turn-out of guests even for other hotels."

MANILA Hotel's old wing (right side), the portion over the lobby, where Dacer's office was located, is reportedly closed.
ERIK ARAZAS

Roño movie recreates Yamashita legend

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SINCE grade school, I've heard about the fabled Yamashita treasure, said to be buried somewhere in this country. The treasure is believed to be worth billions of dollars and includes gold, diamonds, emeralds and other precious stones.

But where is Yamashita's treasure? Up to this day, people still give conflicting answers.

The Golden Buddha, reportedly sequestered from finder **Rogelio Roxas** by the late President **Ferdinand Marcos**, is said to be part of Yamashita's treasure.

Some say the Yamashita wealth is simply a myth. But there are historical documents, researchers and even eyewitnesses who claim otherwise. Nearly 60 years after World War II, when Gen. **Tomoyuki Yamashita** first came to the Philippines, people are still fascinated by the legendary treasure.

For first time in Philippine cinema, the legend will be created onscreen in MAQ Productions' adventure-fantasy, "The Lost Treasure of Yamashita." With a stratospheric budget of P80 million, the film will shoot in San Francisco, among other locations, with the young leads **Danilo Barrios** and **Camille Pratts**.

Danilo and Camille play the gutsy teeners searching for the treasure and competing with the bounty hunters.

Veteran actor **Armando Goyena** plays Danilo's grandfather who holds the key to the treasure. He has an old diary which reveals where the loot is buried.

The film recreates the retreat of Japanese forces in 1944, when Yamashita buried the treasure. Thousands of extras, including Filipino, Japanese and American soldiers, are used. A Japanese hospital ship was believed to have been instrumental in transporting the treasure to its final destination. A replica was built for the film.

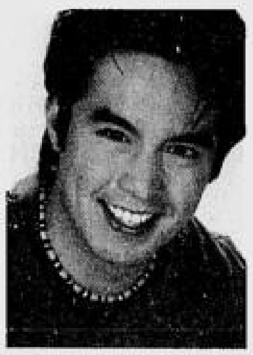
The high-tech wizards of Roadrunner Network complement the production design with enhanced digital computer work. They provided the dated costumes, armory, vehicles and other props to give "Yamashita" an authentic look.

MAQ Productions is fielding "Yamashita" in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival. Its entry last year, "Spirit Warriors," was the festival top-grosser.

The blockbuster team behind "Spirit Warriors" is reunited in "Yamashita"—director **Chito Roño**, screenwriter **Roy Iglesias**, cinematographer **Neil Daza** and Roadrunner Network.

Also starring are **Albert Martinez, Janus del Prado, Carlo Muñoz, Vic Diaz, Rustom Padilla, Bearwin Meily, Mico Palanca** and **Ethan Javier**.

"Producers should come up with projects that can compete with Hollywood films," says producer Mother Lily Monteverde, justifying the "Yamashita" budget. "It is also important that we have movies to boost the morale of the people."



BONDOC. Focused on his career

Yamashita was also known as the Tiger of Malaysia, who overpowered superior American forces during World War II. In 1944, he was ordered to go to the Philippines and became the commander of the Japanese Imperial Army in Luzon.

He failed, but before surrendering in the closing months of the war, he reportedly buried gold and other stolen treasures from Asian countries in the forests and seas of Luzon. A young Filipino, **Ben Valmores**, was said to have witnessed the burial.

Yamashita was tried and executed in Los Baños, Laguna. After the war, the treasure hunt started, in forests and mountains of Laguna, Quezon, Rizal and Baguio.

No to Ecstasy

ONEMIG Bondoc was recently the subject of blind items about a young actor hooked on Ecstasy. But that's rather unthinkable, considering Onemig's wholesome image and decent family background.

While Onemig admits that several friends from outside show biz have tempted him to try Ecstasy and other drugs, he swears he never did.

"Why would I waste my time and money on drugs?" the 24-year-old actor said. "Actually, things like these are nothing new to me. My detractors never tired of saying negative things about me.

But after years of being in the business, Onemig has learned not to dwell on the intrigues.

"I don't get affected anymore," he says. "I want to focus on other more important things."

True enough, Onemig is preoccupied with his show biz commitments. Of late, he is busy promoting the upcoming youth-oriented flick, "Trip," where he stars with **John Pratts, Paolo Contis, Kristine Hermosa, Heart Evangelista** and **Desiree del Valle**. The movie marks the second directorial job of **Gilbert Perez**, whose first work was "Kahit Isang Saglit," the **Judy Ann Santos-Piolo Pascual** starrer.

Onemig plays a congressman's son who lives away from his parents. Somehow, the character is similar to the real Onemig, who now lives alone in a posh condo unit in Greenhills.

"Living alone is a challenge for me because I know my parents trust me, that's why they allowed me," Onemig says. "I am now very independent. I no longer ask money from them. I've learned how to spend my show biz earnings wisely. It's my choice to be independent so I have to prove I can really do it."

IN SEARCH of Yamashita's treasures: Young leads Camille Pratts and Danilo Barrios.

Cost . . .

(From page A28)

paper napkins, and toilet paper. "*Kanya-kanyang kain, kanya-kanyang singa, at kanya-kanyang punas,*" quips a masseur to the stars and studio habitues.

A female producer known for her strict enforcement of a "one-*alalay* and one-driver per actor" rule in her productions is perturbed by the fuss on visible costs.

"I don't allow my actors to bring family or fans to the set, unless the actors feed them, so I spend only P10,000-P15,000 on coffee and juice on the set for 30 shooting days or 45 calendar days, which ever comes first.

"The bigger cost, outside of actors' fees and perks, would be equipment maintenance. Do film and television producers take note of how often equipment breaks down and why? These cost to the heavens when repaired or replaced.

"You go to any regular taping, and you see cables run over by cars and production vehicles, *pansit-pansit ang latag, buhul-buhol.* Cameras are handled without care, *mereseng maulanan,* as if they cost five pesos.

Production executives who stay in their offices don't see this, but they should, because they're the ones who order cost cuts."

Unwise spending

The producer avers that more savings can be made if production systems were really organized.

"Scripts that are revised on the set cost time," she says. "People end up waiting instead of working at once. Extended hours result in sluggish movement, everyone slows down after midnight. Badly written scripts are not cost-effective.

"Production crews made to shuttle from one set to another, again, cost time. By the time they get to you, they haven't even slept yet. Everybody just waits for everybody while the clock ticks away. Time spent unwisely is money down the drain."

With much lesser films being produced and the fate of a considerable number of TV shows in limbo, the film and television industry continuously bewail the latest government imposition of a 20-percent withholding tax for actors, directors, and all others earning talent fees.

Uniform cut

"The 20 percent withholding is supposed to be only for those with an annual income of P750,000 and above," a member of the Directors' Guild of the Philippines explains. "But since there's no way of finding out who's going to make that much until the year is over, it is now a uniform cut levied on all."

"The government is right when it says it's not imposing a new tax," the director adds. "But what we're also saying is that film and television industry workers are presently not in a position to advance taxes, not with the way things are now."

As it is, the lowest in the totem pole no longer freely avail themselves of what was an internal socialized income-distribution scheme in the industry.

"It used to be easy approaching FPJ, Dolphy, or Vic Sotto for help to buy medicine, or pay house rentals," an aging comedienne laments. "Not anymore. What these benefactors used to give away, the government now takes."

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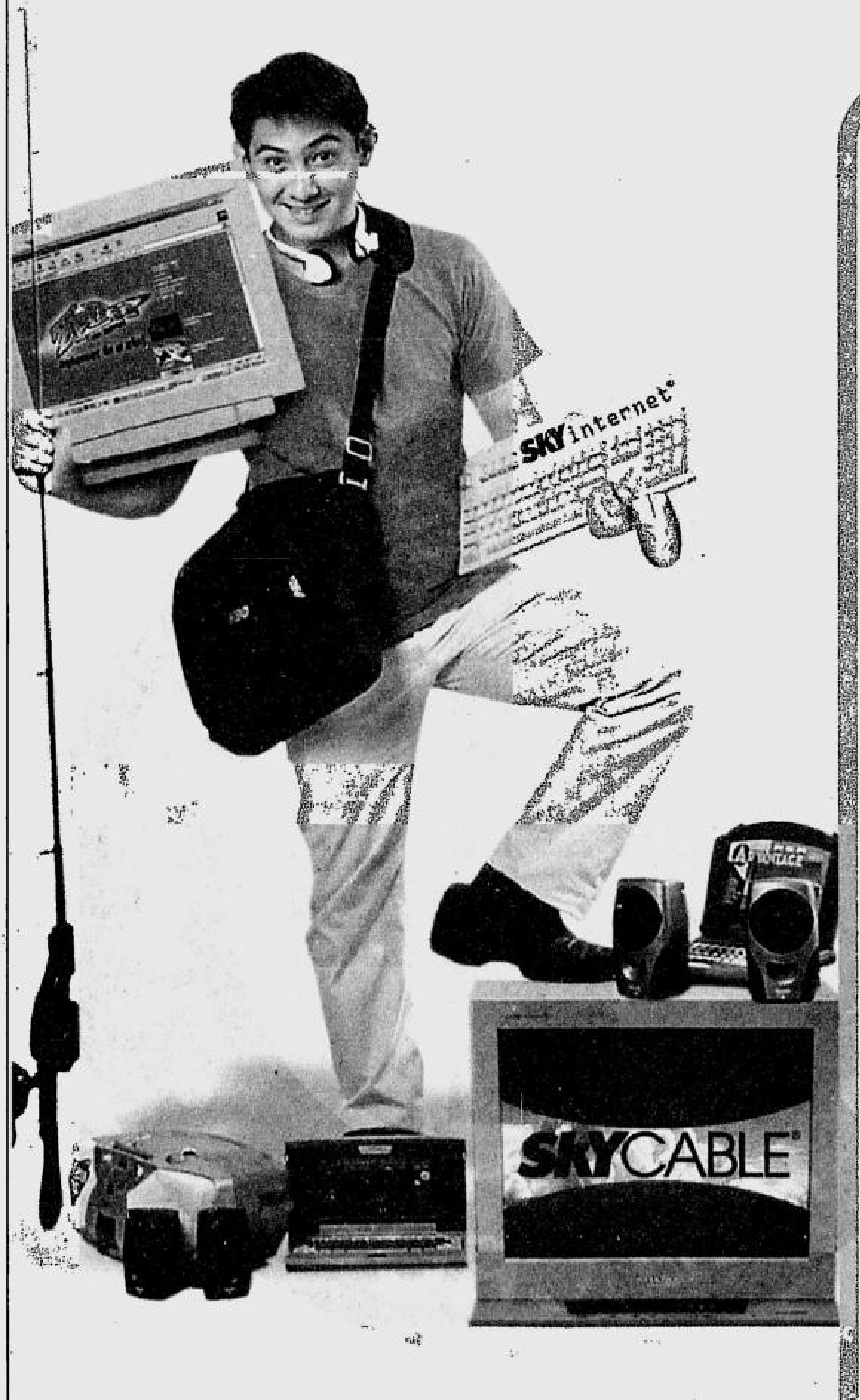

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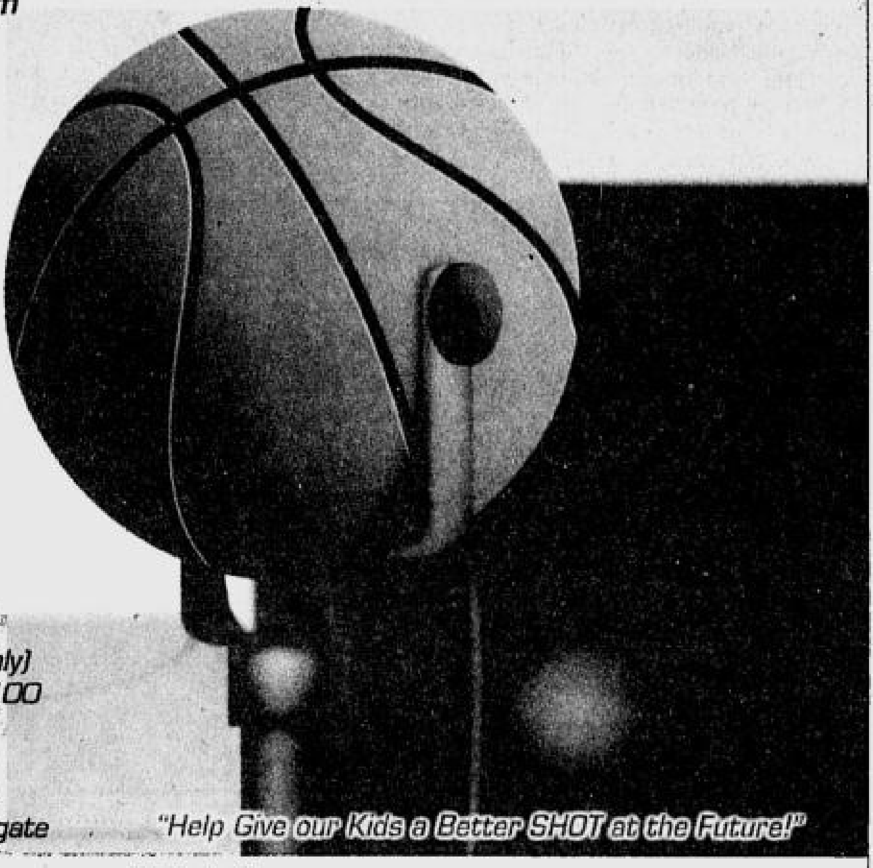

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Ogie to sing Crossover classics

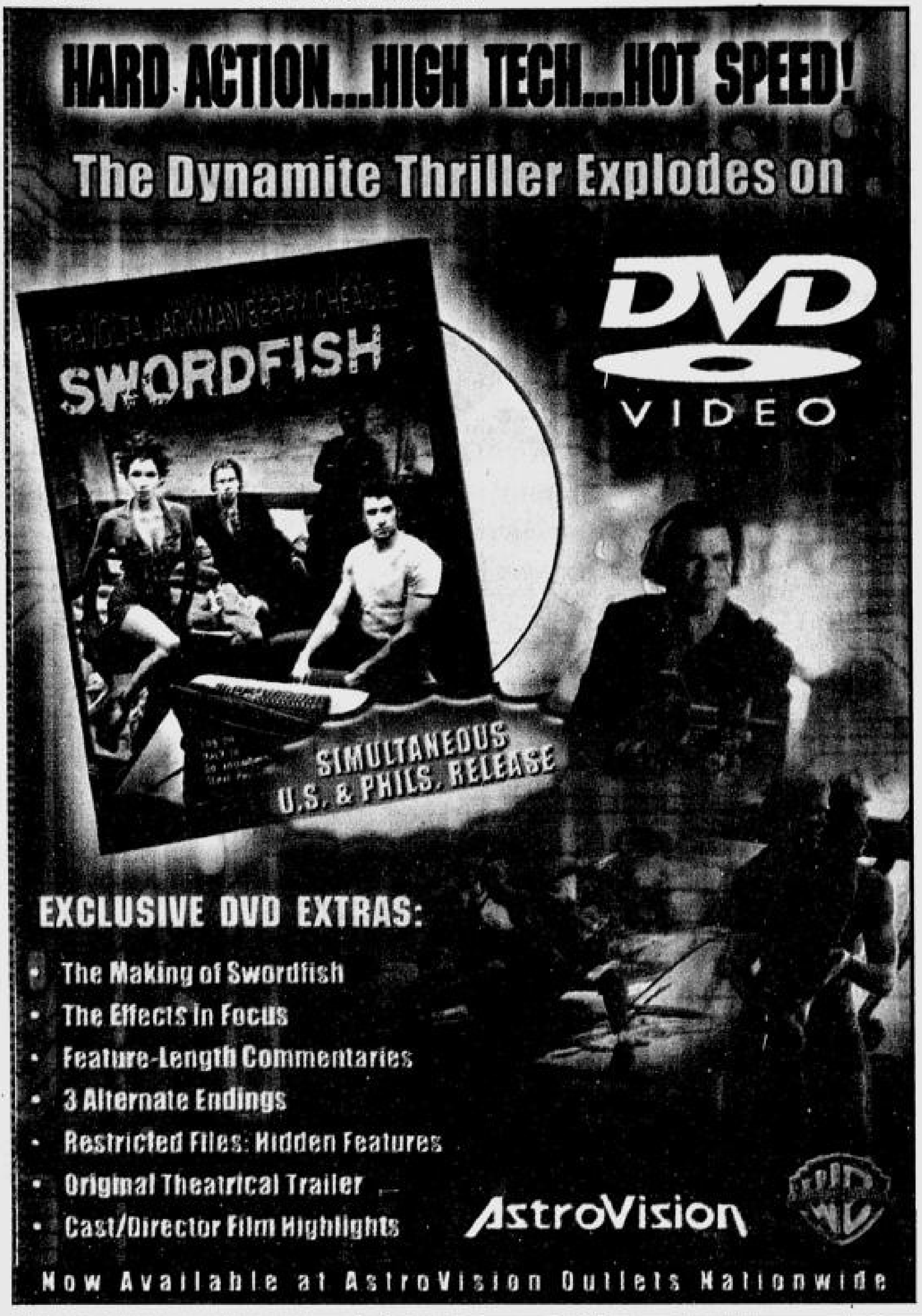
ALCASID

SINGER Ogie Alcasid takes centerstage in "Crossover Presents," the monthly concert series of 105.1 Crossover, Nov. 8 at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental.

Joining Ogie are the vocal quartet The Opera and "Crossover Presents" resident musicians—Bobby Taylo on bass, Cesar Aguas on guitar, Mel Villena on sax, Roy Mercado on drums and musical director Gerard Salonga on keyboards.

Ogie has made a niche in the music industry with his OPM hits like "Pangako," "Nandito Ako" and "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang." At Captain's Bar, he will also perform choice Crossover classics and favorite R&B tunes.

For ticket inquiries, call Ticket World at 891-5610 or Mandarin Oriental at 750-888. Or tune in to 105.1 Crossover for a chance to see the concert for free.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4 DOS EKIS
5 GHOST OF MARS
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7 RESERVE
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3 SAKIM
4 ROSARIO 18

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2 DOS EKIS
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1 DOWN TO EARTH
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4 DON'T SAY A WORD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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4 DOWN TO EARTH

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3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

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3 ROSARIO 18
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5 DOWN TO EARTH

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2 GHOST OF MARS
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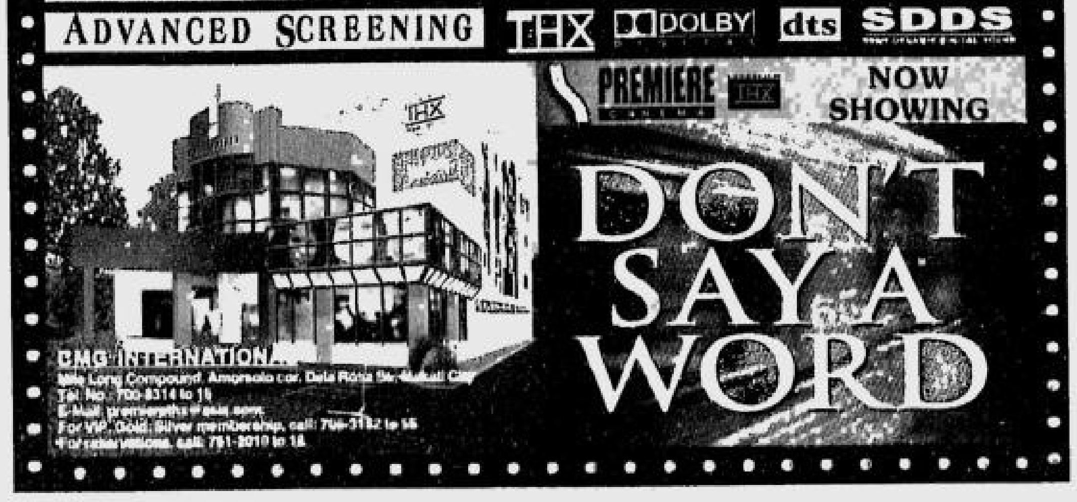

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
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FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
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MANILA	
EASTERN	
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CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	DOS EKIS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
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CINEMA-1	JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK
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CINEMA-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-4	DIBDIBAN ANG LABAN

MORENO. Returns to her first love

Alma performs anew

WHAT'S the latest about Alma Moreno??

Life goes on for the highly energetic wife of Parañaque Mayor Joey P. Marquez, no matter how shattering the news that befell her recently.

Alma is courage personified, as she divides her time between her two enduring love affairs—her family and, of course, her famous sing-and-dance act.

She also takes an active role in the running of the Kababaihan Para kay Joey Marquez Foundation and Libre-Libing Foundation.

Tonight, Oct. 31, the newly-renovated Another World a sing-along grill-bar on Dr. A. Santos ave. (Sucat Road), presents Alma with Raffy and Kats in a variety of song-and-dance numbers that have not failed to dazzle local audiences in the group's out-of-town concerts.

Alma owns the bar, which is also an ideal venue for seminars for her foundations.

Like what she did in her out-of-town shows in Cebu and Laoag with The Kit-Kats, now gaining national attention, Alma held her audience spell-bound throughout the two-hour concert.

In Laoag, an admiring Gov. Bongbong Marcos watched the whole show and congratulated Alma for her performance.

Raffy Chan, Alma's dance partner since her TV heyday, is the main draw of The Kit-Kats.

Other members of the group are Norman Nicerio, Nimfa Cuneta, Michael Gutana and Mida Valderama.

For details, call Another World at 825-6027 or 825-6028.

CHAN

Pianist in concert

INTERNATIONAL pianist-singer and entertainer Christ Medina will perform in a special show, "Halowin Hirit," tonight at the Makati Skyline of the Trade Center (CCP Complex).

Medina is fresh from a series of engagements abroad, particularly Switzerland and the Greek Islands, where he played to an appreciative sold-out crowd.

He makes another rare appearance in the local front with comedienne songbird Marissa Sanchez.

Medina will enthrall the audience this Halloween with his repertoire of Broadway gems, R&B, ballads and jazz.

Showtime is 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call 551-5244 to 45 or 687-0634.

The patient is recovering

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DUE to a variety of positive factors, the critically ill patient that is the Filipino film industry is slowly recovering from the box-office slump that it experienced during the last couple of film seasons.

A number of movies that have turned out to be popular with the viewing public and/or the critics have heartened local film workers and reinforced their belief that the industry is on its way to definite recovery.

This new and more hopeful turn of events has happened due to some drastic changes in filmmaking practices.

First, the "*pito-pito*" experiment in small, budget productions has pretty much been junked, except when it comes to some sexy productions. Former *pito-pito* producers are now spending more for special productions, aware of the fact that local viewers look for production values in the movies they see.

The old film formulas has likewise given way to fresher story concepts, which have interested heretofore jaded moviegoers enough for them to head back for the theaters.

Also fresher is producers' approach when it comes to casting. Veteran action superstars have gone film-less for many months now, and even some younger action stars like **Robin Padilla** occasionally opt for a change of image and have successfully essayed comedy-romance productions with just a little action thrown in for good measure.

Conversely, young stars **Judy Ann Santos** and **Piolo Pascual** scored a hit months ago when they did a movie that (uncharacterically for them) required them to do a lot of workout and action scenes.

Of course, some recent hits are quite standard, like "buddy" comedies starring two comedians, and "classy" sexy movies topbilling formerly "sweet" starlets who now do daring and baring scenes—with alacrity!

But the most impressive hits in recent months have been movies that have bucked the film world's traditional "no-no's" and have given viewers not exploitative and cynical entertainment, but hearty servings of hope and inspiration.

Time was when movies with such noble intentions were thought to be the kiss of death at the box office. But the public's overwhelming endorsement and patronage of those upbeat films has shown small-minded producers that they have once again misread and underestimated our viewers.

Even more impressive is the decision of Star Cinema and the new Bahaghari Productions to make a movie on the war in Mindanao, directed by **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**. The film has been deemed "controversial" because it dramatizes the complex conflict that has polarized key sectors in the country.

But we join others who believe that the film should be made, shown and viewed as soon as possible *precisely* because it touches on a subject that is so controversial, complex, topical and relevant.

We also trust that local viewers will be interested in seeing the film and support it with their patronage, just like they did with Diaz-Abaya's "Muro-Ami" and "Jose Rizal," which have become the top-grossing movies in the country.

Diaz-Abaya's new film, titled "Bagong Buwan" has yet to be shown. At present, however there is enough good news on the local movie scene for us to say that the patient is indeed recovering, and that, if our filmmakers keep coming up with fresh concepts and proficient productions, the viewing public will continue to support their efforts.

Even abroad, the news is good when it comes to Filipino movies. We hear that Unitel's "American Adobo," shot in the states and directed by **Laurice Guillen**, recently had a very successful initial screening in the US, and received very favorable comments not just from Fil-American viewers but from American members of the audience, as well.

"American Adobo" will be shown in Metro Manila at the end of November. We hope that it will be similarly successful here!

Halloween at Conway's

REST of the Boys will thrill the crowd on Halloween night at Conway's Bar of Makati Shangri-La. Alternating with the band is Human Race.

The two groups will perform the hottest dance tunes all night. For inquiries and reservations, call 813-8888.

MTRCB RATING R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
GHOSTS OF MARS

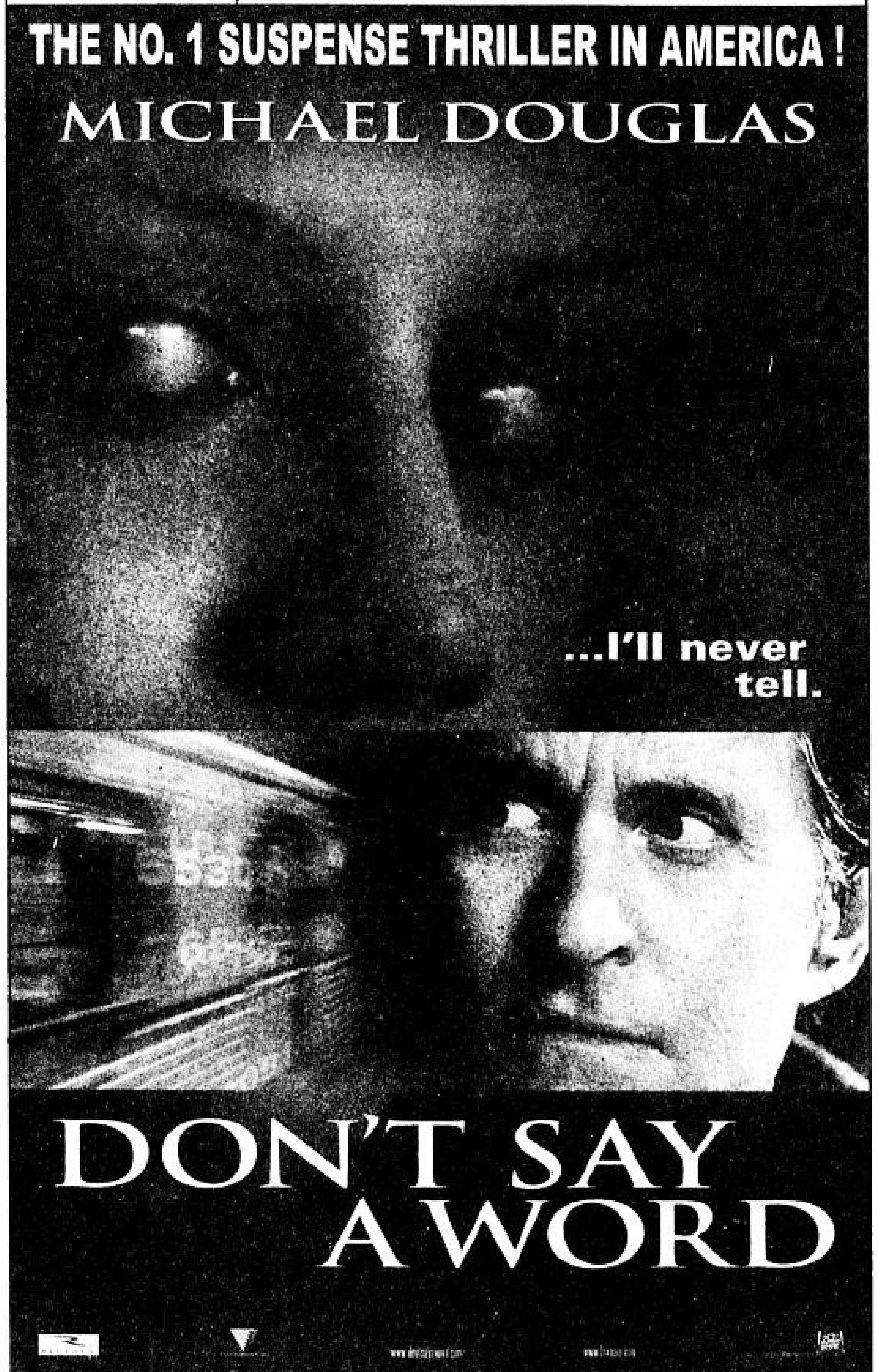
'Ghosts of Mars,' special effects-packed action-suspense thriller from John Carpenter

Mars, 2176 AD. Long inhabited by human settlers, the Red Planet has become the dangerous destiny of an over-populated Earth. 640,000 people now live and work at far-flung outposts all over Mars, mining the planet for its abundant natural resources.

But one of those mining operations has uncovered a deadly mother lode: a long-dormant Martian civilization whose terrifying warriors, now unleashed and unstoppable, are systematically taking over the bodies of human intruders, bent on ridding the planet of the invaders from Earth.

Master of Terror John Carpenter ("Escape from L.A.," "Halloween," "Vampires") presents a new, special effects-packed action-adventure sci-fi thriller starring the sexy Natasha Henstridge ("Species") as Lt. Melanie Ballard of the Mars Police Force. "Ghosts of Mars" is a Columbia Pictures release

OPENS TODAY



MTRCB RATING PG-13 Parents Strongly Cautioned in bringing children of tender age due to some violent scenes.
THE NO. 1 SUSPENSE THRILLER IN AMERICA !
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...I'll never tell.
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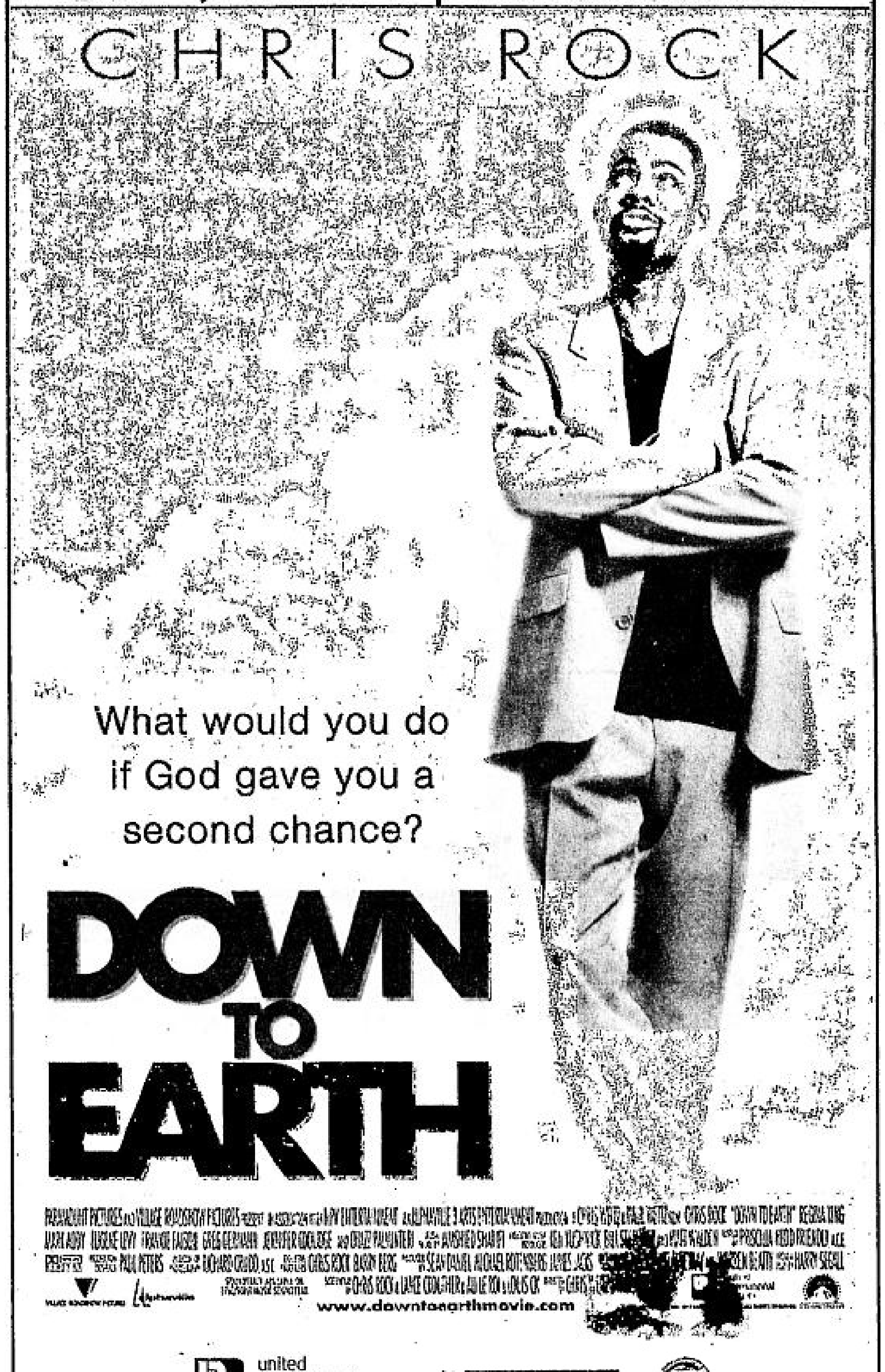

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JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK - R 18 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	DOWN TO EARTH - P 13 11:45, 1:50, [illegible], 6:00, 8:05, 10:10	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
GHOST OF MARS - R 18 [illegible], 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	TRAINING DAY - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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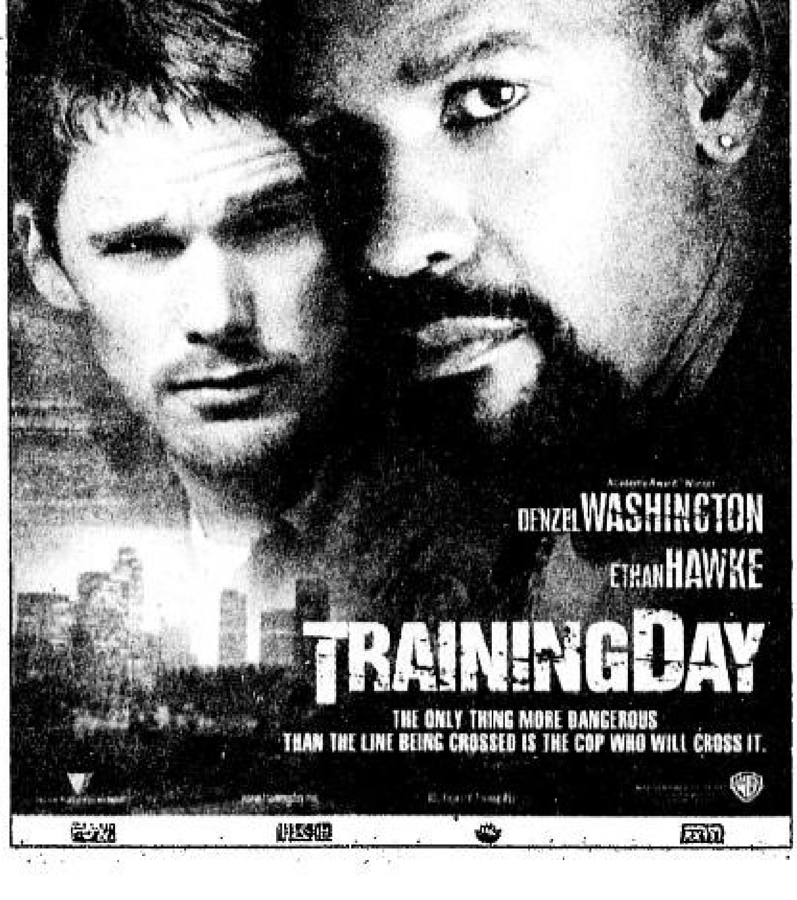

SECOND WEEK !
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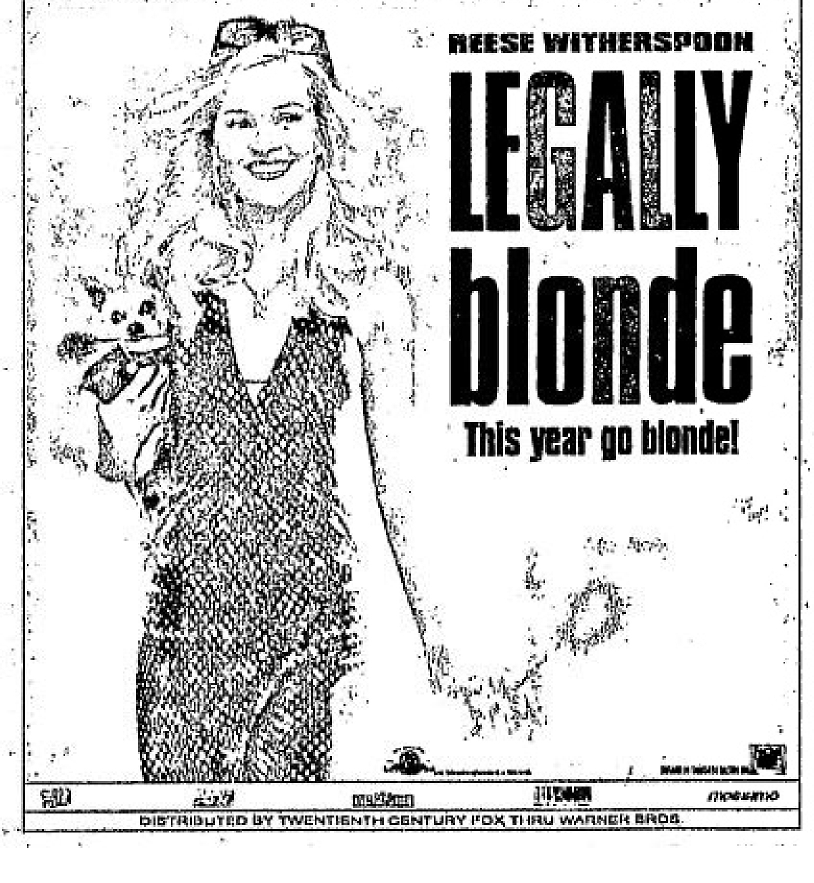
DENZEL WASHINGTON
ETHAN HAWKE
TRAINING DAY
THE ONLY THING MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE LINE BEING CROSSED IS THE COP WHO WILL CROSS IT.



SECOND WEEK !
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Cost-cutting pricks networks, film producers

By Bibeth Orteza

THE NAME director of a top-rating soap is replaced by one of the studio's in-house directors. *Direk* admits he is startled by the decision to take him out, but understands why it has to be made: An in-house who gets a regular monthly salary regardless of how many shows he handles would be more cost-effective.

A lead actor's character is "killed" in a soap, and conjectures fly from all directions. A senior entertainment writer insists the actor's game show ratings offended network top honchos who retaliated with his "sudden death." Others maintain the game show was an excuse to do away with the actor's fees.

A producer balks at feeding 200 spot extras for a film shoot. The director freaks out. He is on location, amidst a sea of tattoos and shanties.

"They're going to kill us here!" he shrieks. "You're going to spend more for our hospitalization!"

The producer mercifully sees his point and has the extras fed. Not with seven loaves of bread and a few small fish.

A box-office draw's TV sitcom contract is up for renewal. The star demands a much higher fee, twice what he gets at present. His very words: "Take it, or leave it."

"Leave it," the network bigwig replies.

The box-office star's manager backtracks somewhat and relays his talent's willingness to do the last couple of episodes in the existing contract. The network bigwig, perhaps—and rightfully—aghast that someone could be asking for a tremendous pay increase in these tremulous times, does not budge and instead proceeds to cancel the last episodes altogether.

When working on film, the same actor asks not merely for his (very, very hefty) fee, but also asks extra monies to pay for two production assistants, the rental of a service vehicle ("*Ayokong natatagtag ang kotse ko*"), and gasoline expenses. His conditions are not, in the near future, likely to be met by any producer, probably never again.

No choice

Cost-cutting was rumor before the events of Sept. 11. If at all practiced, it always exempted stars. But with talk of war and international economic fluctuation creating a no-choice situation for all, freebies and perks are thrown out of the window along with the non-contractuals.

Most movie companies and television shows shot outdoors have recently announced a "bring your own glass and cup" rule. Production outfits used to provide disposable glasses and cups.

Coffee is not available on the set for free, except when work goes beyond midnight.

Those who cannot do without mineral water are advised to bring their own.

Lunch and dinner stubs are a thing of the past, although a popular talent coordinator claims this still isn't so. While studio-taped sitcoms, news and public affairs programs keep meal allowances for their respective crew, the allowances do not cover actors, stars and extras alike.

"I don't mind if it's only me," relates an actor, one of the two headliners of a network week-end sitcom. "I can well afford to feed myself and my driver. But I pity the bit-players I see in the canteen, buying food. They make so little on a work day. If they pay for lunch and dinner, there won't be anything left for them to take home."

Equipment

Costs are also cut on other expenditures such as facial tissues,

COST/A23

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Available picture messages: tripmusic, tripsports, triptv, triplogo1, tripslogan, tripcelinecute, tripsthaneyes, tripheart, tripfaye

Trip

FREE TICKETS!

Get a chance to win exclusive premiere tickets by joining the Trip Trivia Quiz!

DINE WITH THE CAST!

Dine out with the cast!
Ang top 20 winners na may pinakamaraming correct answers will dine with the cast after the premiere.

the Movie Club

Exclusive Premiere
November 6, 2001
SM Megamall Cinema 10 • 7PM
Regular showing starts Nov. 7, 2001

Sali na sa The Movie Club to get the official Trip logos and ringtones!

Just type JOIN MOVIE and send to 239!

To Get TRIP...	Key in:
Logo List of Keywords	LOGO TRIP and send to 239
Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239
List of all Ringtones	TONE TRIP and send to 239
Ringtones*	TONE <keyword> send to 239
Group Graphics Keywords	GROUP TRIP and send to 239
Picture Messages List of Keywords	PIC TRIP and send to 239
Picture Messages*	PIC <keyword> and send to 239
Trivia Quiz	PLAY TRIP and send to 239
Screen Saver	SAVER TRIP and send to 239

*Available on selected handsets
To receive more information on the commands key in HELP <COMMANDS> and send to 239

Available ringtones

TONE BARKADA, TONE GIRL, TONE PAGSINTA, TONE PANGARAP, TONE KUNGWALAKA, TONE NAPAPA-ULUHI, TONE TRIPMOBA

Trip Apparel & Accessories by Islands Souvenirs • Trip Eyewear by 98 degrees

1. All Talk 'N Text, SMART Gold and SMART Buddy GSM subscribers are eligible to participate in the promo.
2. The subscriber should register in the Movie Club to join the promo. A participant may register only once. For first-time registrants, Talk 'N Text subscribers should do the ff. steps:
   1. Send a text message to the number 239 stating "JOIN MOVIE."
   2. Key in "NAME <full name>" and send to 239
   3. Key in "BIRTH <mmddyy>" and send to 239
   4. Key in "ADD <address>" and send to 239

   Subscribers will be charged P2.50 per message sent.
3. The Movie Club members can win free tickets to the advance screening of Trip by joining the Trip Trivia Quiz. He/she can join by typing "PLAY TRIP" and sending it to 239. The Movie Club will text back with trivia questions which the member should answer by texting his/her choice of answers <1,2,3,4>.
4. The top 100 members with the most number of correct answers will win two free movie tickets each for the premiere showing of Trip on November 6, 2001 at SM Megamall Cinema 10, at 7 PM.
5. The top 20 members with the most number of correct answers win the privilege of having free dinner with the Trip cast at Mario's Restaurant at St. Francis Square in Ortigas Center right after the premiere night.
6. The cellphone number of each registered subscriber will automatically be the official entry.
7. Deadline for sending of entries will be on 12 midnight of November 4, 2001.
8. Winners will be determined at 11 AM of Nov. 5, 2001 at the 27/F Smart Tower Building, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City using a computer generated system checked by and operated under the supervision of a DTI representative.
9. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
10. Winners will be notified via text message and a voice call to their registered mobile number.
11. Winners may claim their tickets on November 5 from 1 PM to 7PM at the Smart Wireless Center at SM Megamall or at the Talk 'N Text Movie Club booth at the SM Megamall on the date of the premiere night. Winners must present their active Talk 'N Text/Smart cellphone with the winning SIM numbers and valid IDs with photo.
12. All employees of Smart Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation, Information Gateway Inc., and their advertising agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.
13. Promo period is from October 27 to November 4, 2001.
14. Promo is for GMA only.

Download requests will be charged as follows:
Help and other regular commands - P2.50 ;
logos, ringtones , picture messages and screensavers -- P12.00.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1685, Series of 2001

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RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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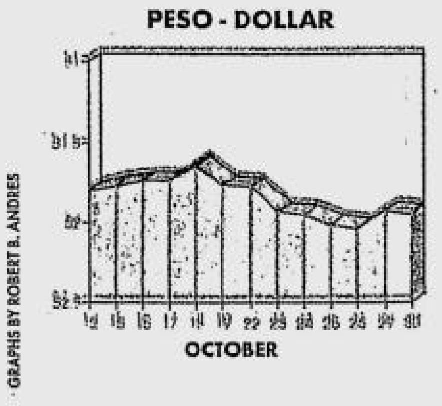
ADB offers to guarantee gov't debts

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 51.94 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 30, 2001

¥ 121.81 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 30, 2001

GOLD:$280.30/280.80
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 30, 2001

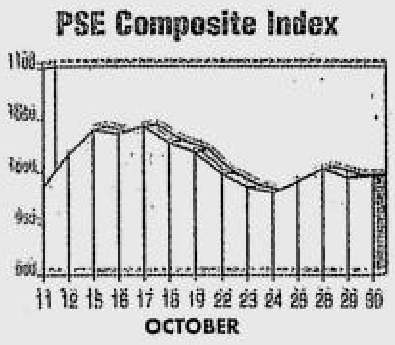
STOCK MARKET

Shares up slightly

SHARE prices closed marginally higher yesterday following bargain hunting but gains were pared back by late profit taking, analysts said.

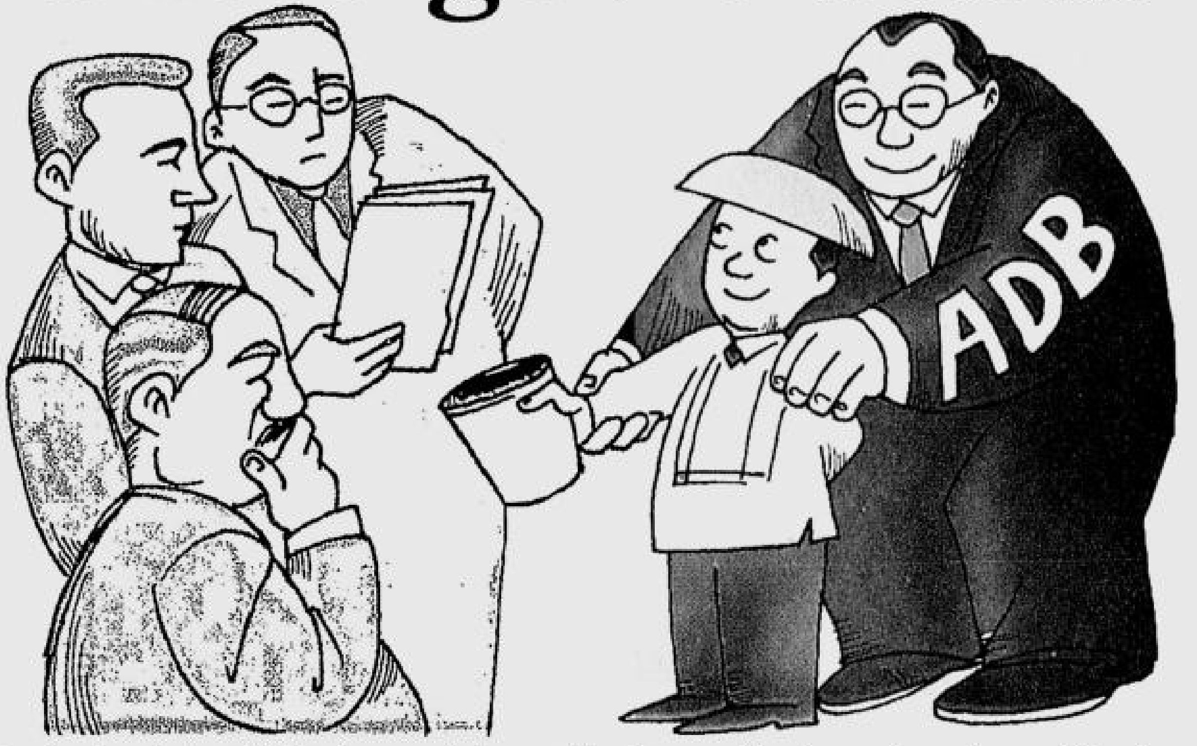
The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index inched 0.30 point up to 995.14.

Analysts said external factors, including the looming release of US third-quarter economic growth figures and the debt crisis in Argentina, cut early gains yesterday. AFP



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Clarissa S. Batino



THE ASIAN Development Bank has offered to provide a guarantee for the country's sovereign borrowings from foreign commercial banks, a coverage similar to what the government is working out with the World Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong said the multilateral institution has expressed its willingness guarantee the commercial borrowings of the Philippine government.

"The guarantee would serve to enhance the (country's sovereign) rating and improve the pricing of our commercial papers in favor of the government," Amatong said.

Another finance official explained that the ADB's offer could be similar to a facility being extended by the World Bank wherein a program loan could be used as a guarantee cover for commercial borrowings.

Amatong said the Philippine government was seeking $300 million worth of combined program and project-specific loans from the ADB for next year.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho explained earlier that in the case of the World Bank facility, the program loans being sought by the government worth $250 million could be used as a guarantee.

Since a guarantee from these multilateral institutions may bring up the country's sovereign rating to investment grade, it would allow the government to borrow more at a cheaper rate, thus offsetting the cost of the guarantee.

Currently, the country's sovereign credit rating from such agencies as Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service is below investment grade.

Aside from the ADB and the World Bank, the Japan Bank has also expressed interest to provide guarantee for any additional yen borrowing that the Philippine government may pursue in the future.

The World Bank and the ADB are being considered to provide guarantee for the government's much-delayed global bond offering, according to INQUIRER sources.

Camacho explained that securing guarantee cover from global financial institutions was part of the government's strategy to bring down the cost of its borrowing.

"For US borrowings, we are looking at the World Bank," the finance chief said.

But because of a delayed US approval, the government has set aside its plans to issue $500 million worth of global bonds this year.

For the upcoming $500 million in yen borrowing or shibosai, a bond issue through a private placement, the government would likely seek a guarantee from Nippon Investment or Nexi, another state-run institution from Japan.

A guarantee from Nexi would give the government's borrowing an investment grade rating, which would bring down the spreads on the loan.

For instance, the planned shibosai may be priced at a range even lower than the going rate of 2.8 to three percentage points over the Yen interbank offered rate.

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On its 9th year, the annual Taiwan exhibits cum investment mission continue to gather thousands of industry leaders and decision-makers as it features new products and technologies in the market; as well as creative business ideas and opportunities .

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By Elena R. Torrijos

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. yesterday reported a 14-percent increase in its earnings for the third quarter to P480 million from last year's P420 million.

The bank, however, posted a 23-percent decline in net interest income to P2.265 billion against P2.786 billion recorded during the same period last year.

Metrobank set aside P178.8 million in loan-loss provisions for the quarter.

Meanwhile, in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the bank said its board approved last Monday a stock split that would reduce the per value of the bank's shares to P20 each from P100 per share and increase the number of common shares to 2.6 billion from 500 million.

The stock split, to be done through an amendment of the bank's articles of incorporation, was designed to improve liquidity or trading of Metrobank shares at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Metrobank executive vice president Alfredo Javellana said the resulting adjustment in the market price of Metrobank share would hopefully make the shares more interesting to investors.

The stock split is expected to bring down the price of Metrobank shares, making it cheaper for investors to acquire.

Metrobank also disclosed that its board approved an increase in the number of its directors from 11 to 15.

In lieu of holding a special stockholders' meeting to approve the amendments of the articles of incorporation for the stock split and increase in number of board directors, Metrobank will seek the written approval of stockholders representing at least two-thirds of the outstanding capital stock of the bank.

The board of directors also approved the change in the date of the annual stockholders' meeting from "any day in April" to "any day in April or May."

DISCLOSURES

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. announced the resignation of Alfonso Yuchengco and Alejandro Melchor as director and advisory board member, respectively. Elected as director was Alfonso Yuchengco Jr. while Joven Reyes was appointed as executive vice president.

* * *

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. increased the number of its directors from 11 to 15. Also, the bank reduced its par value from P100 to P20 and increased its number of common shares from 500 million to 2.5 million.

* * *

FAIRMONT Holdings Inc. postponed for next year its annual stockholders' meeting, which was scheduled to be held on Oct. 31.

* * *

LA Tondeña Distillers Inc. declared a P0.375 per share cash dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of Nov. 19 and shall be payable on Dec. 18.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University bought 20,000 of its shares at P8 per share.

* * *

CENTRAL Azucarera Don Pedro bought 200,000 of its shares at P0.79 per share. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, October 30, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	40.5	40.5	1,063,300
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	1,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	7,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	2,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	166	167	164	165	133,980
Philippine National Bank	46.5	47	46.5	47	204,800
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	5,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	0.93	1	0.93	1	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1225	1250	1225	1250	3,250
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1060	1060	1055	1060	920
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	25.5	25	25	21,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.25	890,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	545	550	535	540	20,430
Ipeople Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	40,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	3,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	1,000
Piltel	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	375	392.5	375	392.5	95,280
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	16,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.25	21.75	21.25	21.75	41,000
Manila Electric Co. B	31.5	32	31.5	32	293,400
Petron Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.06	1.06	5,540,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.8	230,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.32	1.34	1.28	1.28	1,411,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	101,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1,000,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	38,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	484,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	102,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24	24	24	12,200
RFM Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.02	2.04	828,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39	39.5	39	39.5	36,500
San Miguel Corp. B	45.5	46	45	45	464,700
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
Ayala Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.45	4.45	4,207,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	7,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	15,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.66	0.63	0.64	6,530,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	650,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	420,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.25	22.5	22	22	913,500
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
Ionics Inc.	5.6	6	5.6	6	810,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.16	1.16	456,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,400,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	1,380,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	300,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.11	0.09	0.11	2,800,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	40,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.23	30,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.55	0.65	0.55	0.65	4,440,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	350,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0775	0.0675	0.0775	300,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	150,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	5,060,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	3,780,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	500,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	25.5	24.75	25	395,300
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11	11	11	11	600
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	520	520	520	520	10
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	515	520	515	520	9,450
Jollibee Warrants	11	11	11	11	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10	10	10	10	4,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	5,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	10,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	7.8	8	27,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.25	4.4	4.25	4.35	11,723,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	500,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	1,100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	6,600,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.1	5,853,000
City & Land Developers	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	5,898,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	70,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	3,200,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	80,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	960,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	310,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	8,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	170,000

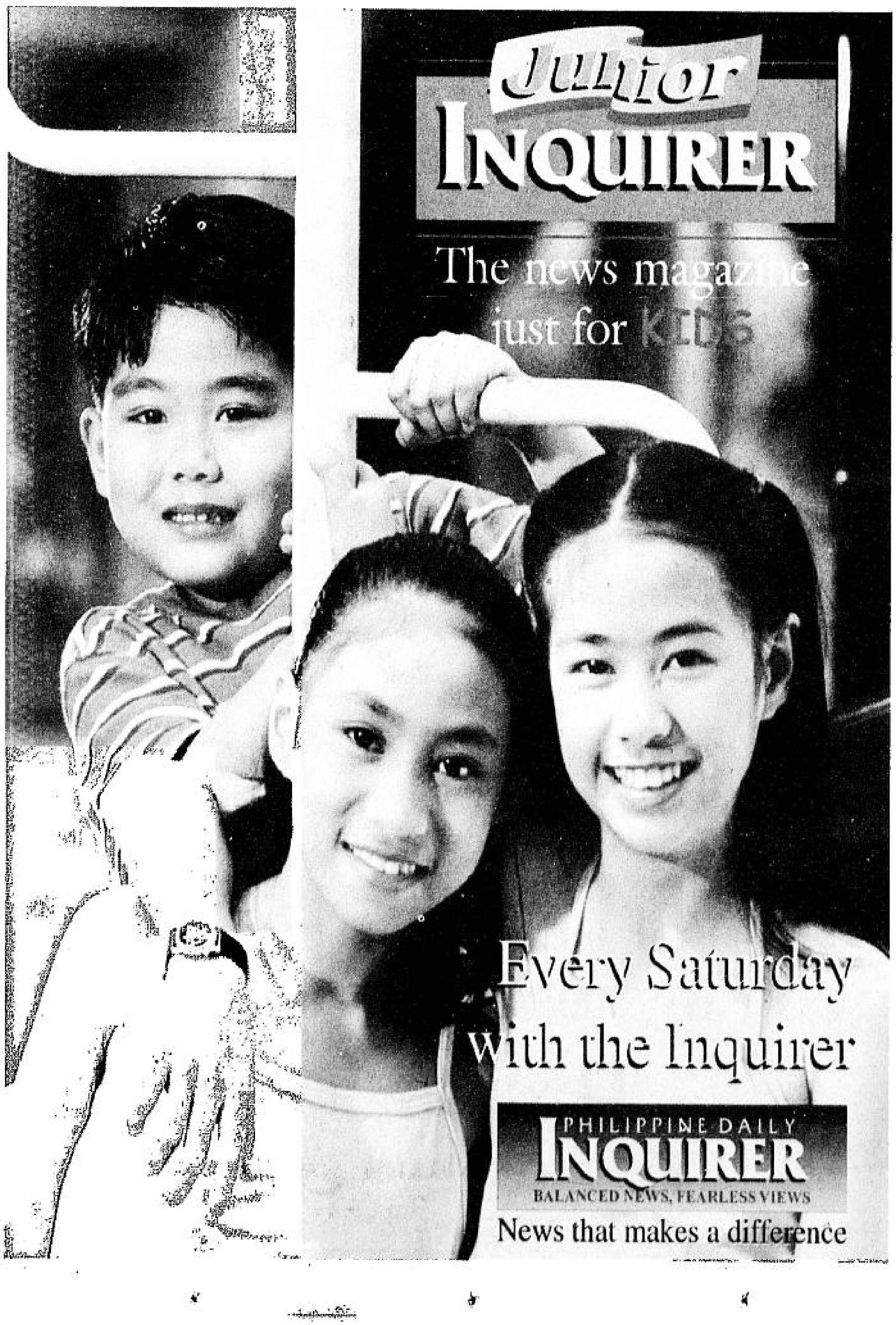
	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,522,750	80,377,930.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	83,581,470	171,506,900.00
PRO	32,224,000	91,507,810.00
Mining	74,751,000	2,294,700.00
OIL	19,480,000	233,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	211,559,220	345,920,840.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	386.28	DOWN 3.11
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,416.29	DOWN 1.19
PRO	436.91	UP 9.32
Mining	998.12	DOWN 26.59
OIL	1.28	DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index	641.40	UP 2.03
Composite	995.14	UP 0.30

CURRENCIES

Oct. 30, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.104606	1.000000	51.9930
Japan	Yen	0.009061	0.008203	0.4265
United Kingdom	Pound	1.606760	1.454600	75.6290
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141798	0.128370	6.6743
Switzerland	Franc	0.678839	0.614553	31.9525
Canada	Dollar	0.701471	0.635042	33.0177
Singapore	Dollar	0.604270	0.547046	28.4426
Australia	Dollar	0.604270	0.547046	28.4426
Bahrain	Dinar	2.930146	2.652661	137.9198
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.294562	0.266667	13.8648
Brunei	Dollar	0.602622	0.545554	28.3650
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000097	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.024672	0.022336	1.1613
UAE	Dirham	0.300819	0.272331	14.1593
Korea	Won	0.000857	0.000776	0.0403
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.905300	47.0693
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.462873	24.0662
France	Franc	0.152450	0.138012	7.1757
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.410807	21.3591
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065791	3.4207
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022442	1.1668
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000468	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.152261	7.9165
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004516	0.2348
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005441	0.2829
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022442	1.1668
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.149494	59.7656



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Napocor to get ₱11B in advances from gov't

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT will have to shell out about P11 billion in advances to National Power Corp. to cover its financial requirements for the rest of the year as prospects for the planned $400-million bond issue dimmed.

Well-placed sources said Napocor would issue P11 billion worth of short-term bonds that would be bought by the national government. This is similar to what Napocor did in September when it issued P3 billion in three-month debt notes followed by another P1.5 billion two weeks later.

If plans push through, the advances will bring Napocor's debts with the national government to P15.5 billion.

The advances will be used to pay Napocor's maturing obligations and finance operating expenses.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government has enough funds that could be lent this year to Napocor. "Our advanced financing for next year gives us enough flexibility to relend to Napocor," he said.

Napocor had hoped it could generate enough financing for its requirements this year through a $400-million, seven-year bonds to be handled by US firm Bear Stearns.

The bond float, however, was delayed because of Napocor's failure to get a reinsurance for its $6.5 billion worth of assets.

Napocor needs a total of $530 million this year to cover maturing loans and capital expenditures. About $144 million worth of loans from ING Barings will mature next month.

Although ING Barings is willing to extend Napocor's loan, the government seems not keen on the idea saying the move may give the financial markets the wrong impression that Napocor will be defaulting on its obligations.

The $400-million bond issue will likely take place next year once Napocor has finalized the reinsurance of its assets.

Without the reinsurance, investors are wary of buying the bonds that Napocor will issue.

The power firm will borrow P5 billion in the first week of November to be followed by another P5 billion a week later and P1 billion next month.

Edeza said that if the government would agree to advance the requirements of the power firm, the proceeds of the $400 million bond issue next year would likely be used by Napocor to repay its debts to the Treasury.

Banana exports rising

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY'S banana exports as of the third quarter of the year hit 940,318 metric tons, up from 906,957 metric tons recorded in the same period last year.

Local fresh fruit exporters such as Stanfilco-Dole Philippines, Anflo Group of Companies, F. S. Dizon & Sons Farms and Lapanday Holdings Corp., a member of the Lorenzo Group of Companies, attributed the increase in exports to the rising demand for Philippine bananas in several developed countries. Local exporters were also able to open up new markets for bananas this year.

Philippine cavendish bananas were exported to China, Middle East, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Russia, Singapore, New Zealand and Turkey, a new market tapped only recently.

Exports to the Middle East grew by 26 percent to 12, 318 metric tons from 9,722 MT last year.

"Sales of bananas have been increasing as markets in developed countries shift to cheaper fruits," Lapanday Foods Corp. chair and chief executive officer Luis Lorenzo Jr. said.

The Lorenzo Group of Companies cornered a third of the export pie as it shipped 7, 124 metric tons this year.

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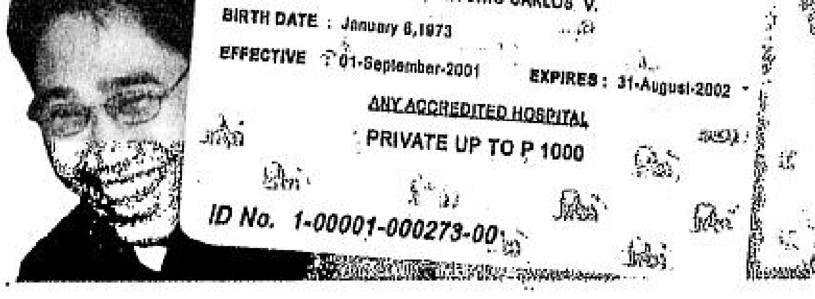
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Asean can take advantage of slump, analysts say

SINGAPORE—The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), set up to accelerate regional growth, is having its agenda dictated by events beyond its control as leaders of the 10-nation grouping prepare for their annual summit.

But handled correctly, the twin impacts of an anemic global economy and the US-led fight against terrorism, can be turned to Asean's advantage and enhance the drive for regional free trade, analysts said.

There is no room to revert to protectionist policies at next week's summit in the Brunei capital of Bandar Seri Begawan, they said.

"The Asean leaders are expected to address immediate concerns to Southeast Asia such as the twin challenges posed by the global economic downturn and the international fight against terrorism," Brunei's foreign ministry said.

"In dealing with these concerns, the Asean leaders are expected to discuss a wide range of topics such as responding to longer term challenges, accelerating regional integration and bridging the development gap."

Critics have written off Asean as a "sunset organization," saying it failed to respond adequately to the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and would be tested again by the new economic slump.

Asean Secretary General Rodolfo Severino said the grouping must turn global events to its advantage—using them as a prop to further tear down tariff walls as regional economies bear the brunt of the global slowdown.

"Of course, it has become more urgent because of the developments in the United States," he told AFP.

"We need to do more like eliminating tariffs altogether because what we would like to do is to integrate the Asean economies. That is the only way we can compete."

Although many Asean economies are either in recession or on the brink of one, Severino said there was no turning back from tariff reduction.

"It's totally illogical to turn protectionist at this point," he said.

The Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) covering the group's six original members—Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines and Singapore—is on track for implementation in 2003.

"Afta is just about done," said Severino.

Newer entries Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam will join between 2006 and 2010.

But with the two groups at different stages of economic development and with varying political systems, they have different perspectives of the risks and benefits of economic liberalization and the free market. *AFP*

ELECTRONICS BUSINESS

RP girds to face China

THE PHILIPPINE electronics industry is scrambling to meet the challenge China is likely to offer upon joining the World Trade Organization, but it says high costs and poor infrastructure hobble its efforts.

A delegate to an electronics conference last week summed up the frustrations of the industry as it prepares for the looming challenge from China.

"Our infrastructure sucks," he said, and griped about the Philippines' poor roads and the weakness of public institutions.

"For us, the weakest link is the government," he added.

As if to underscore the difficulties facing the electronics industry, NEC Corp. announced plans last Friday to shut down its hard disk drive manufacturing operations in the Philippines in December, as part of a major restructuring.

Given the Philippines' less than ideal infrastructure, and the power costs that rank among the region's highest, the industry, that last year accounted for 71 percent of total exports valued at $27.17 billion, could face a battle with China.

The total value of Philippine electronic exports was $14.69 billion during the seven months to July, down 14 percent on the year, with full year revenues seen down 15 percent.

But the chiefs of 10 top companies at the industry meeting were undaunted, saying the sector would ride out any crisis.

They acknowledged China's cost and size advantages, but said the Philippines offered some advantages, too.

It has well developed niche markets, high quality products, and technically capable staff with good English skills, they said.

Conversely, China's patchy record on protection of intellectual property rights, its myriad of competing bureaucracies and poor English were seen as major negatives.

"I would look at it as an opportunity for the Philippines and other Asean countries to rise to the occasion . . . for the government and the industry to accelerate well laid-out plans," said Intel Technology (Philippines) Inc. general manager Robin Martin.

But industry watchers say the low-value added, mass-produced end of the business will inevitably shift elsewhere.

China will not deal the business a fatal blow, but it will force a reshaping, another industry participant said.

"It's not going to kill us permanently . . . but (the industry's survival) in its present form, I am very skeptical," said venture capitalist and electronics engineer Paco Sandejas.

Participants called for better-skilled, better-paid engineers to turn out specialist value-added products, especially for the United States.

Peter Wallace, head of the Economist Intelligence Unit (Philippines), agreed that the low value end of the industry would inevitably wither as cheaper cost centers like China emerge.

But Wallace is worried by constraints on the country's ability to become a significant player in the information, communications and technology (ICT) industry. *Reuters*

Smart opens 3 cell sites in North Cebu

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

SMART Communications Inc. has fired up three new cell sites in different towns in northern Cebu such as the Malapascua Island, Cebu's "unspoiled Boracay," Medellin in Daanbantayan and Bantayan in Bantayan Islands.

"With the operations of these cell sites, Smart now has almost full coverage in Northern Cebu," Smart's network services division head Rolando Peña said.

The Cebu local government is developing Malapascua and the adjacent island Daanbantayan and Bantayan, as Northern Cebu's key attractions.

Roads are already being improved and a newly constructed one-kilometer airport that can accommodate charter flights to and from Cebu City has recently opened.

With the new Smart cell sites, the islands are expected to be more accessible to trade and tourism.

"Our efforts in improving communications infrastructure in the area is complementary to the efforts of the local government. There is a telecommunications need in the area and we want to fill that digital gap," Peña said.

Smart now has coverage in almost all municipalities and cities in Cebu. The cellular firm has also improved its coverage in major land routes in the main island, from the southern town of Oslob to Cebu City to the northernmost town of Remigo.

Just this August, Smart fired up its second base station controller in Cebu. This increased the network's subscriber capacity by another 350,000. The facility serves not only the traffic requirements of Cebu but of other islands in the Visayas as well.

For enhanced coverage, higher capacity and better call success rate in Cebu, Smart has deployed different equipment for various requirements.

Among these are the advanced and high capacity Ultrasites for wider outdoor coverage. Ultrasites are half the size of ordinary base stations but with twice the capacity. It can support GSM (global system for mobile communications) and next generation mobile communication technology.

For enhanced street-level coverage in high-density areas in Cebu City, Smart has installed Metrosites.

These are pole-mounted base stations ideal for providing quick and easy indoor service as well as cost-efficient roadside coverage.

Cebu Pacific opens new route

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—Cebu Pacific Airlines started Friday its thrice a week Cebu-Clark-Cebu flights.

A 110-seater DC-9 airplane landed at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) here Friday at 12:12 p.m. with 57 passengers from the Mactan International Airport in Cebu City. The plane took off at 1:18 p.m. with 22 passengers bound for Cebu.

Sales and marketing officials of the Cebu Pacific Airlines said they were planning to expand later the flights to include the Clark-Cebu-Davao route and vice versa.

The airline is also planning to serve other key cities in the country and start international flights from Clark to Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China if its initial operations here will succeed.

Ronaldo Tiotuico, Central Luzon tourism director, said Cebu Pacific has decided to utilize the American-made airport here with two parallel 3.2-kilometer-long runways "to make air travel for more than 16 million people in the four regions of Northern and Central Luzon more convenient and easily accessible."

He said the company's decision to fly from this special economic zone was backed by recent statistics on the travel patterns of domestic tourists and businessmen from Central and Northern Luzon.

Last week, the Australian-controlled Clark Airport Ground Handling Services Inc. (Caghsi) threatened to sue Cebu Pacific Airlines if the latter would refuse to allow the former to provide ground handling like maintenance and related services to its aircraft.

The Caghsi has an exclusive contract with the Clark International Airport Corp., which was recently integrated with the Clark Development Corp., to exclusively provide ground-handling services to all aircraft arriving at the airport here.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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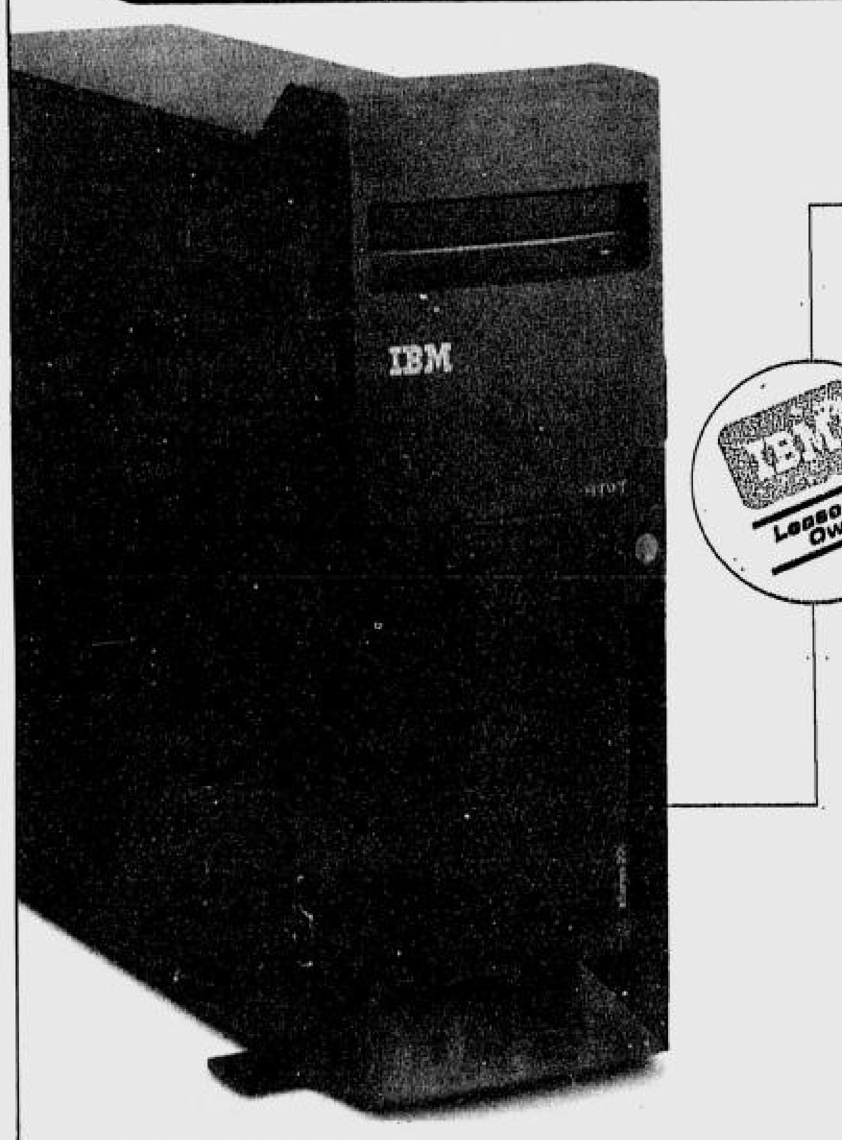

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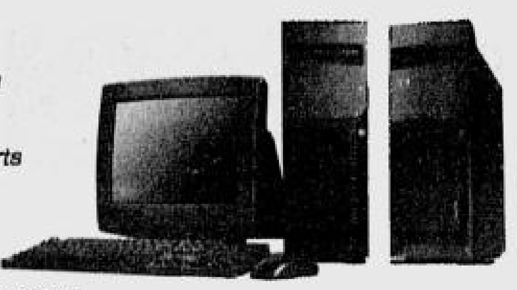

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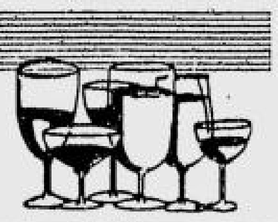
Anguish over Agustines

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

THE 19 creditor-banks of the Ramcar Group are now scrambling for whatever assets they can find to protect themselves from the P7.9 billion in liabilities that the country's largest battery manufacturer has been unable to meet.

This means even money-making sister companies like Mr. Donut, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and Fazoli could be attached.

Even the personal properties of Ramcar patriarch Manuel Agustines are now the object of a universal search, especially in the light of the creditors' theory that there had been deliberate finagling of the Ramcar books.

According to the grapevine, the creditor-banks are seeking an explanation from the SGV partner in charge of the Ramcar account, but that the partner, Laura Acuzar, has already retired from the auditing firm.

The banks specifically want to know why the SGV-audited financial statements of the Ramcar Group only reflected P4 billion in debts, and that everything had been, as it were, hunky-dory.

But even the banks themselves are apparently not unanimous in how to handle the Ramcar affair. From the initial indications, the suit-brigade have already started a scramble for assets, something similar to what had happened to the Nikon and Urban Bank collapses.

BPI's Xavier Loinaz, for one, is quite sympathetic with Agustines, a close friend of his and the Zobels'. It also helps that the P2-billion exposure of Bank of the Philippine Islands appears to have adequate cover.

Friendships notwithstanding, the banks have rejected the dacion en pago proposal from Ramcar, after realizing that the lands being offered as payment were either unrealistically valued or had already been encumbered. Of the lot, only about P500 million worth of land remained unencumbered, according to one bank.

Agustines, in desperation, has already thrown in his investments in Metrorail, with an initial valuation of P300 million, to cover the deficiency. But the Metrorail security could be discounted further, since the Edsa light rail project is not expected to show profits for the investors until 2006.

In the meantime, Agustines has been told to present "accurate financial statements and more palatable properties" in the next meeting.

In other words, someone, something is going to be toast, and it certainly is not doughnut.

Tom minus Dick and Harry

UNLIKE during the Estrada visit that the hotel lobby was crawling with Antay-Erap characters, the lobby of the Island Shangri-La in Hong Kong was mercifully free from Antay-GMA members eager to be seen by or be seen with President Macapagal-Arroyo during her weekend visit to the territory.

The lone surviving Antay-Erap member who was seen patiently waiting this time at the Shangri-La lobby was ex-plastics king William Gatchalian.

Despite the protestations and body blockings of the mainly-Makati Business Club delegates, Gatchalian managed to line up at the end of the farewell line to shake the hand, and presumably be rubbed off the glory, of the President as she departed for Beijing, according to the grapevine.

Credit or blame for the screening of business delegates goes to former trade undersecretary Tomas Alcantara, who apparently was a DTI consultant of sorts for the HK visit. In partnership with the MBC, Alcantara trimmed the RP business delegation to those who have real business presence/dealings with the territory.

Still, Alcantara's already arched eyebrows went up a few notches, according to the grapevine, when who materializes at the GMA-HK Governor Tung Chee Hwa luncheon but taipan Lucio Tan and Macau gambling lord Stanley Ho.

Apparently, Tan and Ho had been invited by the HK government for the luncheon, the *kapitan* specifically on account of his strong property presence in the territory.

Even without the luncheon, Tan's interests have been adequately represented during the arrival lunch-meeting of GMA with the officers of the Philippine-Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce. Tan's brother Henry, managing director of Luen Thai Holdings, and Tan son-in-law, Ramon Pascual, vice chair of Eton Properties, were both at the Sunday lunch.

Heard through the grapevine

TAIPAN Lucio Tan has sent word to Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez that he is withdrawing his group's opposition to the Naia Terminal 3 project.

Apparently, a modus vivendi is in the works, if not it already having been reached. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

Gov't defers plan to borrow in Singapore

By Clarissa S. Batino

NONE of the five investment banks that submitted offers to the government to handle a $170 million to $280 million worth of borrowing from the Singapore market could fully commit to underwrite the deal, prompting the Department of Finance to postpone the plan indefinitely.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza hinted that the government might cancel the deal altogether if it could close better deals in other markets in the future.

"We may have to do the Singapore borrowing next year or maybe we do not need to do it all because we already have sufficient sources of funding," he added.

The government wanted to raise some 300 million to 500 million Singapore dollars (equivalent to $170 to $280 million) from a five-year bond issue this year to finance next year's cash needs.

Sources said that aside from UBS Warburg, Citibank N.A., and ING Barings, Deutsche Bank and Singapore-based DBS have also submitted offers to handle the borrowing.

The problem, however, was that the investment banks wanted a government mandate, which also serves as a firm commitment, to allow the bank to bookbuild or to solicit interest in the bonds.

He said this was different from a firm commitment to underwrite, which assures the government that the investment bank would provide the money whether or not it could sell the debt notes to investors.

A market source pointed out that the government's planned Singapore dollar borrowing was bumped off by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' $350-million, four-year bond issue that JP Morgan Chase would underwrite.

As more investors preferred to put their money in US dollars, the central bank borrowing was perceived to be more attractive and left little room for the national government to issue some more foreign debt notes.

Still, Edeza said the government was already assured of raising this year at least $800 million from foreign sources, leaving only about $600 million to be raised next year out of its $1.4-billion foreign financing requirement for year 2002.

He said the five-year yen bond issue through a private placement or a shibosai would push through in the first two weeks of December. The borrowing, equivalent to 30 to 50 billion yen, would be backed by a guarantee from the Japan government's Nippon Export and Investment.

Pasar inks $47-M deal

THE PHILIPPINE Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. yesterday signed a $47-million countertrade deal for copper and coal with the China Minmetals Group, one of mainland China's biggest state-owned commodities traders.

In one of the highlights of President Macapagal's state visit to China, Pasar chair Carlos G. Dominguez and Minmetals president Miao Gengshu inked three agreements covering Pasar's export of at least 24,000 metric tons of high quality Grade A copper cathodes to Minmetals for a year.

The talks also covered negotiations with Napocor to facilitate the swap of Pasar's copper with Minmetal's coal; and closer cooperation in promoting each other's products.

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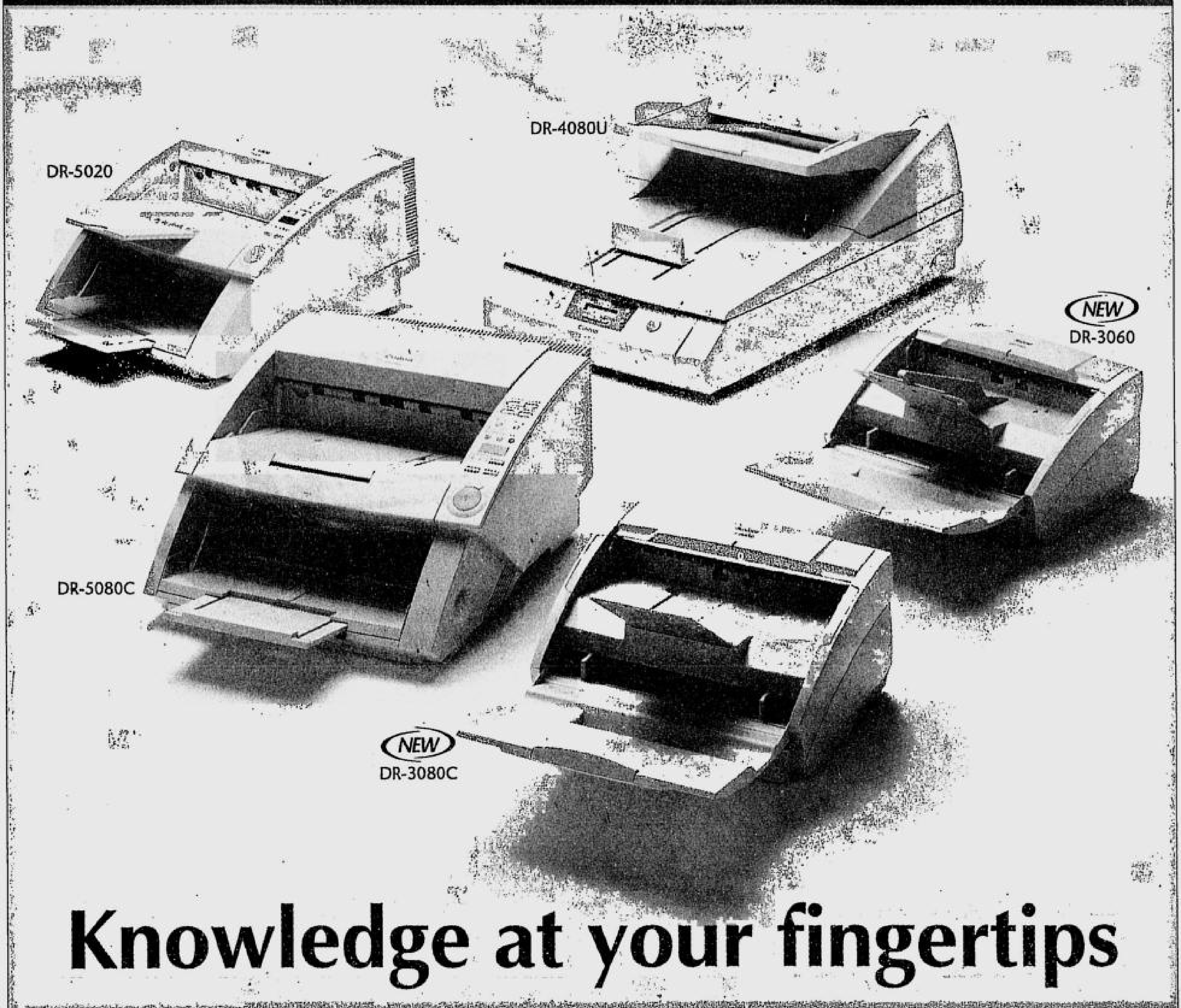

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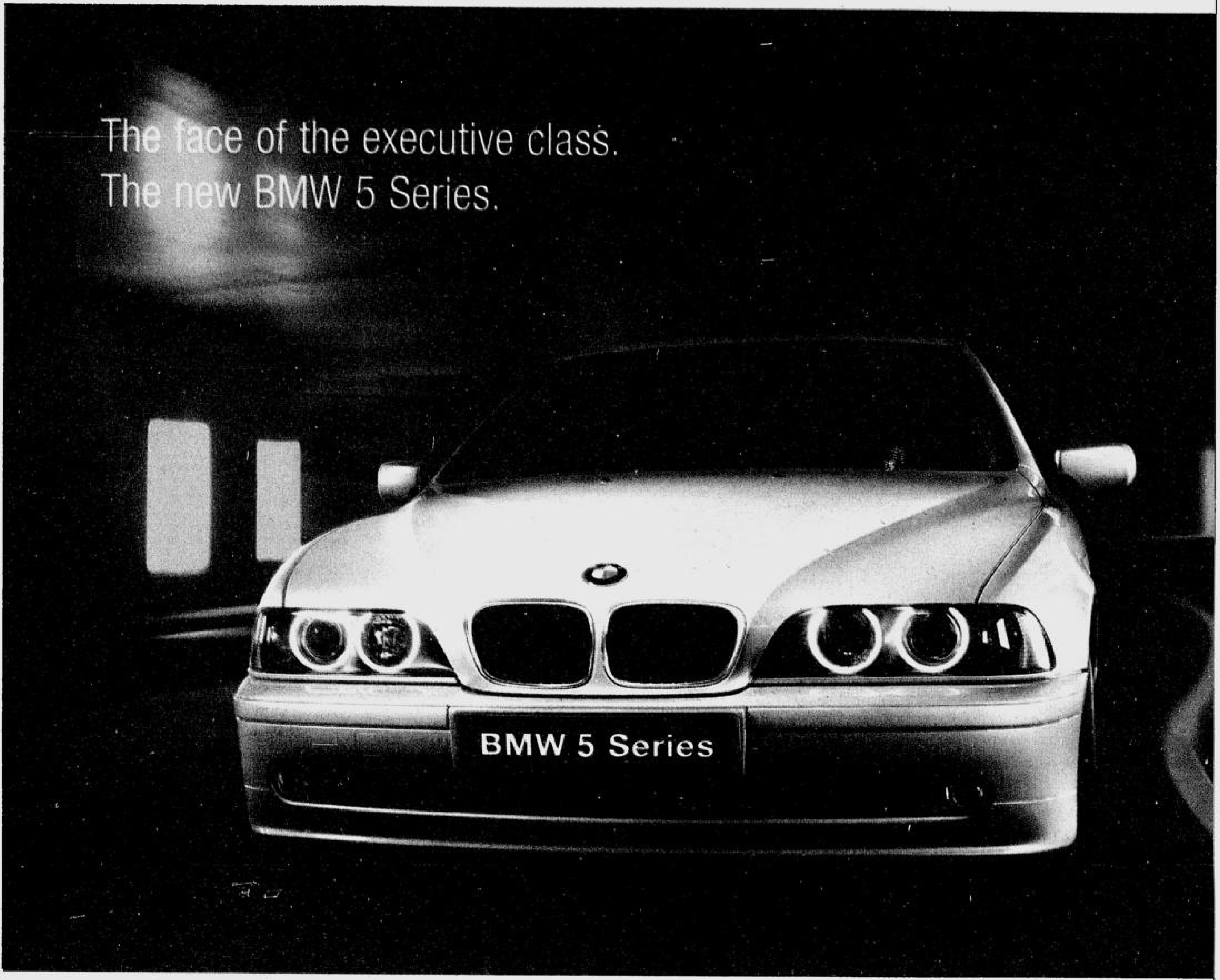

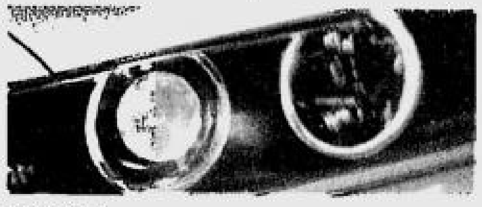
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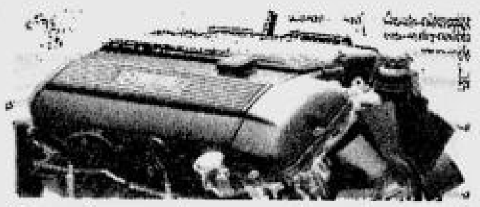
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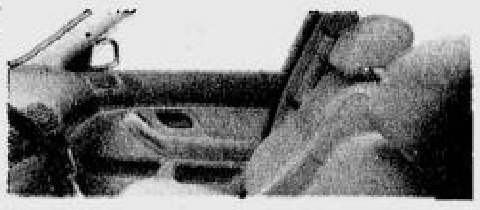
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PNOC
The Energy Company

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
PNPC Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 893-6001 to 47 loc. 2101-2104 / 8402024
Fax No. (632) 840-1459

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC)** invites eligible contractors/ professionals to pre-qualify and bid for the:

TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR MINE COMMERCIAL ASSESSMENT
CP 01 951

Interested parties are required to submit the following pre-qualification documents on or before **November 9, 2001**:

1. Resumé or bio-data (at least four (4) years experience in actual open pit coal mining operation/planning is required)
2. List of projects/works completed, showing the detailed description of work
3. Income Tax Return for the Year 1999-2000
4. RTC Clearance for the current year
5. Copy of PRC License ID or Professional Registration Certificate

Bid documents shall be available for issuance only to pre-qualified bidders at the above address from the Operations Services Group starting **November 16, 2001**. For the purpose of clarifications, a pre-bidding conference will be conducted on **November 23, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the Bldg. I Conference Room at the above address.Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Operations Services Group not later than 2:00 p.m. of **November 29, 2001** at the above address and then shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

(Sgd.) **RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.**
Chairman, Contracts Award Committee
By:
(Sgd.) **V. M. NEPOMUCENO**
Member, Contracts Award Committee

(PDI - Oct. 31, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LUIS M. BAJA was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc# 326 Page# 67 Book# VIII Series 2001 of Notary Public Atty. Jose Ronald V. Valles of Pasig City.
(PDI-10/ 24,31,11/ 7, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late Ascario G. Tuason have executed a deed of extra-judicial settlement last Oct. 16, 2001, which deed was entered in the notarial register of Atty. Floro dela Cruz of Q.C. under Doc.#89; Page#18; Book#LXII; Series of 2001. PDI-Oct. 19, 25 & 31, 2001

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

(A person must pray this 3 consecutive Days Without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted.)

Offered by: BEN LAO

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Ashes to ashes

The practice of reducing a corpse to its essential inorganic elements by fire was popularized in the Western world by the Greeks around 1000 B.C. The Romans later adopted and commercialized the ritual, and our word 'cremation' derives from the Latin *cremare*, meaning 'to burn up.' Today the cremation conflagration is generated by bottled gas, synthetic and natural, the kinds that fire a kitchen oven. Because of the intense temperatures inside the furnace, and because a special draft control prevents the (c)remains from escaping into the air, a 180-pound man is rendered in an hour and a half, in toto, into a few pounds of white powdery ash and fragments of bone.

For the Record. When she died in 1952, Maria Eva "Evita" Peron, the popular second wife of Argentine President Juan Peron, was embalmed but not buried. After Peron was overthrown in 1955, Evita's body was kidnapped and smuggled out of the country. She was buried in the Musocco Cemetery in Milan under the name of Maria Maggi to discourage potential grave robbers. In 1971 her body was transferred to Madrid, where Juan Peron was living in exile. Two years later, Peron briefly returned to power. Upon his death, his third wife, Isabel, became president. In an attempt to link herself with Evita's popularity, she brought back her body to Argentina in 1974. It didn't help. Isabel was deposed by a coup in March 1976. In October that year, Eva was buried in an armored vault in the Recoleta Cemetery of Buenos Aires.

Past Forward. This day in 1926: Escapologist and conjuror Harry Houdini died in a Detroit hospital at age 52. The man who delighted in cheating death in his daring stage act succumbed to peritonitis (inflammation of the membrane lining the abdominal cavity) after suffering a seemingly minor injury. The Hungarian-born master magician began his career as a trapeze artist. He changed his name from Erik Weiss to Houdini, after the famous French conjuror Jeane-Eugene Robert Houdin. By the early 1900s his stage act had earned him an international reputation. Time and again he would enthrall audiences by escaping from all manners of straitjackets, handcuffs, prison cells, and locked, weighted and submerged containers. He attributed his success to his immense strength and (tongue in cheek) to his bow legs.

WORD WATCH

Multo : Tagalog corruption of the Spanish *muerto*, 'corpse, dead person.'

PDI -- October 31, 2001

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ANACLETO S. MADRILEJO

of Balingasa, Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 27, 2001 at the age of 91.

His children **Roberto & Nora Guevara, Lourdes** (†) & **Leopoldo Macapagal, Jovita & Leonardo Santos, Romanita & Reynato Sto. Tomas, Corazon & Thomas Villareal, Elizabeth & Jose Navea, Alberto & Lilia Tan, Edgardo & Susan dela Paz**; sister **Alejandra Madrilejo**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives & friends request for prayers for his eternal happiness.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Wake hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 3, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Baesa, Kalookan City.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Alejandro Baisas Afurong
and
Emelina Afurong Corotan

who died on
October 21 and October 11, 2001
respectively,
would like to express our sincere
appreciation to all who condoled with us
during our time of bereavement.

"You will forever be in our hearts Daddy."

ENGR. ROMEO "NONONG" A. FAJARDO

Bulan, Sorsogon and Quezon City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 29, 2001 at the age of 61.

His bereaved wife **Lorna O. Fajardo**; children **Rochelle, Romeuri, Rothlee** and **Romeo Jr.**; grandchildren **Tabby, Rani, Russel** and **Kyle**; parents **Eugeniano** and **Placida**; auntie **Jauna Abrantes**; mother-in-law **Puping**; sister **Monina Luzuriaga**; brothers **Eugene, Art** (†), **Rumolo** and **Manuel**; in-laws, other relatives and friends, request the reader to pray for him.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

We Lovingly Remember

the 6th Death Anniversary
of our beloved DADDY

JOSE "PEPITO" TORRES

who joined his Creator on October 31, 1995

Holy Masses will be offered at the
following Churches today, October 31, 2001:

St. Jerome the Parish Church *Ayala-Alabang, Muntinlupa*	6:00 AM
St. James Parish Church *Ayala-Alabang*	6:00 AM
Carmelite Monastery of the child Jesus *Gilmor*	6:30 AM
Society of the Divine Word *Kamuning, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
Divine Word Mission Seminary *E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Quezon City*	6:30 AM
St. John the Baptist Church *Pinaglabanan Church*	7:15 AM
Sanctuario de Santo Cristo Parish Church *San Juan, Metro Manila*	7:00 AM
Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy *Maysilo St., Mandaluyong City*	6:00 AM
Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish Church *Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:15 AM

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT
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"In my Father's house are many rooms
I am going there to prepare a place for you
I will come back and take you to be with Me
That you may also be where I am."
John 14:2-3

Our Dearly Beloved Tatay

ATTY. ALFREDO BERBANO DEZA

of Alcala, Cagayan and Parañaque City
Retired Executive Director
Civil Service Commission
U.P. Law 1956

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 27, 2001
at the age of 68.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment will be on November 3, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque at 3:00 in the afternoon.

Please pray for his eternal repose With much gratitude from his bereaved family:

His loving wife, **Atty. Norma Palma-Deza**

Children and in-laws:
Rowena and **Andres E. Obieta**
Carmina and **Alexander T. Aguirre**
Melissa and **Kazunori Fujita**
Jenina Belinda and **Manolito A. Cruz**
Alfredo Eric Jr. and **Rahima S. Tacabel**
Fernando Edwin

Grandchildren:
Farrah Diva
Angelique Bernardine
John Rafael
Miguel Almond
Angelo
Maki
Yuki
Miki
Farida
Enrico
Ma. Teresa

Brothers, Sisters, and in-laws:
Nora and **Jose C. Catalon M.D.**
Eden and **Felipe Q. Chua M.D.** (†)
Marivi and **Prospero A. Flores M.D.**
Inocencio Jr. and **Pollie M. Laviña**
Romulo and **Lucita Calzada**

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God. *2 Cor. 4:14*

MAYOR BERNARDO "BOMBET" SAYAROT

Mabitac, Laguna

Born on March 12, 1953 peacefully joined our Creator
on October 29, 2001 at the age of 48.

His dearest wife **EVA SAYAROT**; and children **Kathleen, Karen, Bernard Lou, Paula, Meng** and **Luigi**; parents **Artemio & Feliciana Sayarot**; mother-in-law **Avelina Endaya**; brothers **Danilo, Arturo & Ladislao**; sisters **Normita, Adelaida & Cristy**; in-laws, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

Please omit flowers, instead, donations to Mayor Bernardo Sayarot Scholarship Projects will be greatly appreciated.

Jun B. Navarro

Has peacefully rested in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord on October 27, 2001 at the age of 36.

His loving family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose fo his soul.

His remains lie in state at 14 Robin St., St. Francis Homes, Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 3, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at Bautista, Pangasinan Cemetery,

---

Antonio Ponce Cruz

of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija

Passed away on Oct. 27, 2001
at the age of 69.

He is survived by his loving wife **Carmen**; his children **Lito** and **Lani, Jessie** and **Miles**, and **Tessi** and **Ken**; grandchildren **Jessica, Carlo, Nico, Jason, Kim** and **Zoe.**

His remains lie in state at Chapel 15, La Funeraria Paz, Quezon City until November 1, 2001.

Interment will be on November 2, 2001 in Guagua, Pampanga.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ILOILO
Office of the Governor
Iloilo City

October 18, 2001

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Province of Iloilo hereby invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as **Triple A, LARGE B** for Buildings to apply for qualification/eligibility, and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the construction of additional works; supply and commissioning of various equipment for the completion of the New Iloilo Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City.

Qualification/Accreditation statements are available for issuance to interested Contractors at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Iloilo National High School, La Paz, Iloilo City starting **November 5, 2001** until **November 6, 2001**, upon presentation of a Letter of Intent addressed to and received by the Office of Governor Niel D. Tupas. Last day for submission of qualification/accreditation documents is **November 15, 2001**.

Plans and bidding documents are available at the Provincial Engineer's Office Multi-Purpose Covered Gym, Magsaysay Village, La Paz, Iloilo City for issuance to pre-qualified Contractors on **December 7, 2001** only upon payment of the amount of **Twenty-five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00)** which is non-refundable.

The BAC shall hold pre-bid conferences on **December 21, 2001**; and **January 8, 2002**, at 2:00 p.m. at the SP Session Hall of the Old Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City.

Sealed bids shall be received by the BAC on **January 25, 2002** from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the SP Session Hall of the Old Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City, which will be publicly opened at 2:15 p.m. of the same date.

The Provincial Government of Iloilo reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality in such bids, and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Iloilo Provincial Government.

(Sgd.) **NIEL D. TUPAS**
Governor

(PDI – Oct. 21, 26 & 31, 2001)

National Power Corporation

GENCO 2

POSTPONEMENT OF BIDDING

AD NO. GENCO2-2001-1

Due to suppliers' request, the bidding for NPC GENCO 2 requirements scheduled on **November 8, 2001** is hereby postponed. The new schedules are as follows:

Deadline for Securing Bid/Tender Documents: **November 15, 2001, 9:00 a.m.**
Deadline for Submission of Bids: **November 15, 2001, 10:00 a.m.**
Opening of Bids: **November 15, 2001, 10:00 a.m.**

Please be guided accordingly.

(Sgd.) **J. C. HIDALGO**
Chairman, BAC-GENCO 2

(PDI - Oct. 30 & 31, 2001)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
PNPC Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 893-6001 to 47 loc. 2101-2104 / 8402040
Fax No. (632) 840-1459

PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC)** invites eligible contractors to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for the:

GROUP HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE POLICY

HR 01862R

Contractors for medical insurance services who are non-accredited with PNOC Energy Companies as of October 2001 may secure application for pre-qualification/accreditation at the above address starting **October 31, 2001** after payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 100.00. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification requirements shall be on **November 7, 2001**.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance only to pre-qualified/accredited contractors starting **November 14, 2001** at the above address. For the purpose of clarifications, a pre-bidding conference will be conducted on **November 16, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the Bldg. I Conference Room at the above address.

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Operations Services Group not later than 2:00 p.m. of **November 23, 2001** at the above address and then shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to **PNOC EC.**

(Sgd.) **RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.**
Chairman, Contracts Award Committee
By:
(Sgd.) **V. M. NEPOMUCENO**
Member, Contracts Award Committee

(PDI - Oct. 31, 2001)

H.No. 5805

Republic of the Philippines
Congreſs of the Philippines
Metro Manila

Eleventh Congress

Third Regular Seſsion

Begun and held in Metro Manila on Monday, the twenty-fourth day of July, two thousand

[REPUBLIC ACT 8993]

AN ACT GRANTING THE PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND/OR TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines on Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. ***Nature and Scope of Franchise.*** – Subject to the provision of the Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, there is hereby granted to Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, hereunder referred to as the grantee, its successors or assigns, a franchise to construct, install establish, operate and maintain for educational and noncommercial purposes and in the public interest, radio and/or television broadcasting stations in the province of Palawan, where frequencies and/or channels are still available for radio and/or television broadcasting, through microwave, satellite or whatever means, including the use of any new technologies in television and radio systems, with the corresponding technological auxiliaries and facilities, special broadcast and other program and distribution services and relay stations.

SECTION 2 ***Manner of Operation of Stations or Facilities.*** The stations or facilities of the grantee shall be constructed and operated in a manner as will, at most, result only in the minimum interference on the wavelengths or frequencies of existing stations or other stations which may be established by law, without in any way diminishing its own right to use its selected wavelengths or frequencies and the quality of transmission or reception thereof as should maximize rendition of the grantee's services and/or availability thereof.

SECTION 3. ***Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission.*** - The grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) the appropriate permits and licenses for the construction and operation of its stations and facilities and shall not use any frequency in the radio/ television spectrum without having authorized by the Commission. The Commission, however, shall not unreasonably withhold or delay the grant of any such authority.

SECTION 4. ***Responsibility to the Public.*** – The grantee shall provide adequate public service time to enable the government, through the said broadcasting stations or facilities, to reach the population on important issues; provide at all times round and balanced programming; assist in the functions of public information and education; conform to the ethics of honest enterprise; and not to use its stations or facilities for the broadcasting of obscene and indecent language, speech, act or scene; or for the dissemination of deliberately false information or willful misrepresentation, to the detriment of the public interest, or to incite, encourage or assist in subversive or treasonable acts.

SECTION 5. ***Right of Government.*** – A special right is hereby reserved to the President of the Philippines, in times of war, rebellion, public peril, calamity, emergency, disaster or disturbances of peace and order, to temporarily suspend the operation of any stations or facility in the interest of public safety, security and public welfare, or to authorized the temporary use and operation thereof by any agency of the government, upon due compensation to the grantee, for the use of said stations or facilities during the period when they shall be operated.

The radio spectrum is a finite resource that is a part of the national patrimony and the use thereof is a privilege conferred upon the grantee by the State and may be withdrawn anytime after due process.

SECTION 6. ***Term of Franchise.*** – This franchise shall be for a term of twenty-five (25) years from the date of effectivity of this Act, unless sooner revoked or cancelled. This franchise shall be deemed *ipso facto* revoked in the event the grantee fails to comply with any of the following conditions:

a. Commence operations within one (1) year from the approval of its operating permit or provisional authority by the NTC;
b. Operate continuously for two (2) years; and
d. Commence operations within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 7. ***Acceptance and Compliance.*** – Acceptance of this franchise shall be given in writing sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act. Upon giving such acceptance, the grantee shall exercise the privileges granted under this Act. Nonacceptance shall render the franchise void.

SECTION 8. ***Bond.*** – The grantee shall file a bond issued in favor of the NTC which shall determine the amount, to guarantee the compliance with the fulfillment of the condition under which this franchise is granted. If after three (3) years from the date of the approval of its permit by the Commission, the grantee shall have fulfilled the same, the bond shall be cancelled by the Commission. Otherwise, the bond shall be forfeited in favor of the government and the franchise *ipso facto* revoked.

SECTION 9. ***Self-Regulation by and Undertaking of Grantee.*** – The grantee shall not require any previous censorship of any speech, play, act or scene, or other matter to be broadcast from its station: Provided, That the grantee, during any broadcast, shall cut off from air the speech, play, act or scene, or other matter being broadcast if the tendency thereof is to propose and/or incite treason, rebellion or sedition; or the language used therein or the theme thereof is indecent or immoral; and willful failure to do so shall constitute a valid cause for the cancellation of this franchise.

SECTION 10. ***Obligation of Grantee.*** – Any person aggrieved by any remark, report, statement, commentary or the like by broadcasting using the same facilities of the grantee shall have the right to reply in the same program or any other program the aggrieved party may choose.

SECTION 11. ***Warranty in Favor of National and Local Governments.*** – The grantee shall hold the national, provincial, and municipal governments of the Philippines harmless from all claims, accounts, demands or action arising out of the accidents or injuries, whether to property or to persons, caused by the construction or operation of the stations of the grantee.

SECTION 12. ***Sale, Lease, Transfer, Usufruct, Etc.*** – The grantee shall not lease, transfer, grant the usufruct of, sell nor assign this franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder to any person, firm, company, corporation or other commercial or legal entity, nor merge with any other corporation or entity, nor shall the controlling interest of the grantee be transferred, whether as a whole or in parts and whether simultaneously or contemporaneously, to any such person, firm, company, corporation or entity without the prior approval of the Congress of the Philippines. Any person or entity to which this franchise is sold, transferred or assigned, shall be subject to the same conditions, terms, restrictions and limitations of this Act.

SECTION 13. ***General Broadcast Policy Law.*** – The grantee shall comply with and is subject to the provision of a general broadcast policy law which the Congress may hereafter enact.

SECTION 14. ***Equality Clause.*** – Any advantage, favor, privilege, exemption, or immunity granted under existing franchise, or may hereafter be granted, shall *ipso facto* become part of previously granted telecommunications franchises and shall be accorded immediately and unconditionally to the grantees of such franchise: *Provided, however,* That the foregoing shall neither apply to nor affect provisions of telecommunications franchises concerning territory covered by the franchise, the lifespan of the franchise, or the type of service authorized by the franchise.

SECTION 15. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SECTION 16. Repealability and Nonexclusivity Clause. – This franchise shall be subject to amendment, alteration or repeal by the Congress of the Philippines when the public interest so requires and shall not be interpreted as an exclusive grant of the privileges herein provided for.

SECTION 17. Reportorial Requirement. – The grantee shall submit an annual report to the Congress of the Philippines on its compliance with the terms and conditions of the franchise and on its operation within sixty (60) days from the end of every year.

SECTION 18. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication, upon the initiative of the grantee, in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved.

Sgd.
FRANKLIN M. DRILON
President of the Senate

Sgd.
MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.
Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on October 18, 2000 and October 10, 2000, respectively.

Sgd.
OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

Sgd.
ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General, House of Representatives

Approved.
(January 05, 2001)

Sgd.
JOSEPH E. ESTRADA
President of the Philippines

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

Tenth Offering

The National Housing Authority (NHA) is accepting bids for the sale of eighty-nine (89) residential lots in Monterrazas Village, Bgy. Tuding, Itogon, Benguet with areas ranging from 283 to 901 square meters and base prices ranging from P350.00 to P4,500.00 per square meter under credit terms.

Interested parties may secure the bid documents for a non-refundable fee of P200.00 from the NHA Project Office located at the D'Castellamonte Building, #12 Otek Street, Baguio City.

SCHEDULE: The submission of pre-qualification requirements will be received during office hours from **29 October 2001** to **27 November 2001**. A pre-bid conference will be held on **22 November 2001** at 2:00 PM. Sealed offers will be received from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon of **28 November 2001** which will be opened at 2:00 PM of the same day. All transactions will be held/entertained at the NHA Baguio Project Office.

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, call off this tender prior to bid acceptance and call for new tender under amended rules, as may be deemed advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN**
General Manager

(PDI – Oct. 29 & 31, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City

Fax No. 8954024
Tel. Nos. 8976682
8901332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of UNITEX PHILIPPINES, INC. with address at Room 604 PDI Condominium, Banilad, Cebu City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investment Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended by Republic Act 7918 as New Information Technology Service at a capacity at 12,672 Man-Hours on a Non-Pioneer status and with proposed plant site at Room 604 PDI Condominium, Banilad, Cebu City has been officially accepted on 26 October 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her comments/ objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) CHITA O. ANGELES
Director
Legal Services Department

(PDI--Oct. 31, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
SAN CARLOS CITY (PANGASINAN)
BRANCH 56

VIVIAN CUDIAMAT-COLLADO,
Plaintiff/Petitioner,
-versus-
MAURO COLLADO,
Defendant/Respondent.
CIVIL CASE NO. SCC-2463

x--x

SUMMONS

TO: MAURO COLLADO - #90 A. Luna Street, Bambang, Pasig City

You are hereby required to enter your appearance in the above-entitled case and to aswer the complaint of the plaintiff within a period of sixty (60) days from the last publication of a copy of the special summons in a national newspaper of general circulation. If you fail to appear within the time fixed aforesaid, the plaintiff will take judgment against you by default and demand from this court the relief applied in said complaint.

San Carlos City (Pangasinan), October 19, 2001.

(Sgd.) LUIS M. FONTANILLA
Acting Presiding Judge

(PDI--Oct. 31, Nov. 7 & 14, 2001)

Southridge Bazaar at Sanctuario Forbes Park

THE SOUTHRIDGE Class 2010 is holding a Christmas Bazaar on Sunday, November 4 at Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park. Shopping hours will be a whole day affair from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Organizers offer many unique items at bargain prices including a variety of food items. Citibank credit cards are honored. Those who wish to get a head start in their Christmas shopping will find the Southridge Bazaar a welcome event.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Inquirer Classified ads branches are open to serve your advertising needs on the following schedule:

October 31
Megamall - 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM

November 2
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Megamall 12:00 NN to 9:00 PM

November 3
Main Office - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Kalaw - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Megamall - 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Cubao - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory

of

RAFAEL R. REDITO

(October 24, 1941 - October 31, 1999)

on his **2nd Death Anniversary**

9 Days Holy Mass (Oct. 23 - Oct. 31) will be offered at **St. Edward Parish, Tx USA; St. John the Baptist Parish, Manila; Miraculous Medal Parish, Sucat, Metro Manila.**

We, Mama and Intoy request all those whose lives he had touched in one way or another to remember him... in their prayers.

May his soul rest in peace with the Lord.

VICENTE HYDER ESPINA, JR.

February 8, 1924 - October 29, 2001

His wife **Jacinta**; children **Nora** and **Tony**, **Lucy** and **zAlbert**, **Felix** and **Tonette**, **Tony** and **Gene**, **Peter** and **Deedee**, **Helen** and **Romy** (†), **Nita / Dodie**, **Mary**, **Irma** and **Rey**, and all grandchildren, request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at **HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS**, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City. Interment will be **announced later.** For further details, please contact telephone number, **808-50-87.**

OUR SINCEREST THANKS

To relatives, SRH team and staff, patients, colleagues, artists business associates and friends, "your words of comfort, sympathy, continued support and enduring friendship has kept our dear **EGAY** alive in our hearts."

EDGARDO "EGAY" LOZANO AVILA, M.D.

(4 January 1958 - 13 August 2001)

Bachelor of Science (PRE-MED), UP-DILIMAN, 1974-1978
Doctor of Medicine, UERMMMC, 1978-1982
Past President, TARLAC MEDICAL SOCIETY, 1998-1999
Medical Director, ST. ROSE HOSPITAL, Paniqui, Tarlac, 1992-2001
Outstanding Physician, PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 1999

wife, **Ruth Pambid-Avila**; children, **Arion Andronicus**, **Meliza Rose**, **Althea Rose**; father, **Dr. Rodolfo C. Avila**, mother, **Luviminda L. Avila**; brothers and sisters, **Noli** and **Mildred**, **Let**, **Bedict** and **Joey**; **Katy**, continue to seek your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

VICTORIA MARTIN VITANGCOL

Of San Ildefonso, Bulacan & Quezon City

Peacefully went to be with our Lord on October 29, 2001 at the age of 84.

Her bereaved children **Vicky Popple**, **Cora & Chun**, **Rudy**, **Flor & Lito Garcia**, **Sonny & Neneng**; grandchildren and great grandchild wish to inform relatives and friends that her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 3, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Arlington.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

BIENVENIDA LIMJOCO DE JESUS

who joined our Creator on October 27, 2001

convey our sincerest thanks to all those who condoled with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, went to the wake and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and in many unknown countless ways, in the hour of our bereavement.

Lilian, Socorro and Jose

DOMINGO MILLAR MANTALA

is now joyfully and safely home with his Maker.

His body now lies in state at Arlington East the Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo St., cor. Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 4, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the Holy Mass at 1:00 p.m.

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ **REGINA GALANG REYES**, Subsection Editor

How to zap workplace ghosts

By ERNIE O. CECILIA

HALLOWEEN conjures up ghosts, ghouls, witches, wizards and evil spirits. At this time of the year (in fact, everyday even), the workplace is not spared of the visits of these abominable, loathsome and unpleasant spirits.

Have you ever looked around you with discerning eyes and noticed the ghosts in the workplace? So, if there's something strange in your neighborhood, who are you going to call? Rather than rely on external ghostbusters, be one yourself. To begin your transformation, here are a few of the workplace ghosts that you should watch out for and some tips on how to get rid of them:

1. The ghost of a bad boss

Many inhabitants of the workplace, especially the new entrants and the uninitiated, often fear the bad boss. The bad boss shows no respect for the individual, berates his subordinates in public, does not care about their development, and relishes in catching his people doing wrong.

My usual advice is to be good to your boss, no matter how bad he is. The next boss could be worse. But you don't have to suffer and cower in fear. Be assertive—not submissive, not aggressive. Know your rights, just do a good job, toe the line, but "draw a line on the sand." When your boss crosses that line, complain to your boss' boss. But make sure that you are not at fault, too.

2. The ghost of job loss

In this day and age, the once sacrosanct security of tenure is constantly challenged by changes in the workplace. Many employees have lost their jobs and many more will lose them. The common reasons are closure of business, restructuring, retrenchment, computerization of business processes, etc.

In the new economy, no job is permanent, as companies will tend to keep and reward employees only for the creation of value that the customers are willing to pay for. Focus is shifting from security of tenure to security of employment, from employment to employability.

In the end, the real security is the ability to effectively perform a variety of jobs over extended periods of time, even as one floats from one team or company to another. Learn the technology of the business and the business of technology, and you will always find work to do—either as an employee or entrepreneur.

3. The ghost of obsolescence

The nature of work has changed, mostly from use of brawn to brain. Physical jobs are now being done by machines or "outsourced" to experts. The productive worker's strength is no longer physical, but intellectual and emotional intelligence. Skills and competencies to do current jobs differ radically from those demanded in the yesteryears. Many people have lost their jobs because they have not developed the new skills required to cope with the changing nature of work.

The best way to cope with this ghost of obsolescence is to constantly upgrade one's competencies and acquire new skills that will be in great demand in the years to come. Know what competencies you have now and find out what skills and competencies will be needed in the future. Find out the gaps and develop yourself before you become an anachronism.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

4. The ghost of globalization

When global trade is fully liberalized, the whole world will shrink further and become one "borderless" market. Nothing will prevent other countries from peddling their wares here or multinationals now in our country from relocating their facilities to more cost-effective locations. Either of these will challenge the competitiveness of Philippines, Inc. and can result in an even weaker domestic economy. This is one of the real fears of people in the workplace—that globalization will eventually mean local business closures, retrenchments and loss of more jobs.

Since the specter of globalization looms imposingly, we can't choose our battleground in the global market. The only way to survive is to shape up and be competitive. Be a "global *Pinoy*" who knows how to compete with mighty powers-that-be in foreign lands. Believe me, the "global *Pinoy*" is not a contradiction in terms—the *Pinoy* can be global if he wants to.

Go BTB—back to basics, better than before, be the best.

5. The ghost of radical change

Globalization and technology changed the rules of the business game and engendered radical changes in the workplace. To be truly competitive requires utmost flexibility, especially in work, structure, processes and products. The customer practically dictates the kind of products, processes and structure that a company wishing to be globally competitive must have. This flexibility throws off many employees from their comfort zones, fixed mindsets and routines.

Flexibility is unsettling for many employees but everybody must learn to play by the new rules that are constantly changing. Remember that if you want to survive, much less succeed in the new workplace, you simply have to create or contribute value that the customers are willing to pay for. This requires the flexibility to adapt to emerging changes, adopt new mindsets and attitudes, and be adept at new processes to do your work.

Are these ghosts in the workplace frightening you? You shouldn't be afraid of these ghosts. Real people are stronger than any ghost in the workplace. The trick is to confront these spirits and deal with them appropriately in the real world.

(Send feedback to erniec@edsamail.com.ph *or* ec4u@edsamail.com.ph.*)*

Build bridges to close generation gap at work

By TITA DATU PUANGCO

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

I AM a 23-year-old engineer employed with a technology-oriented company. This is my first job. Personally, I think the company has a good culture as everyone is empowered to contribute their best to the company. However, there are moments when I feel disgruntled. Some of the supervisors in their 40s often make negative remarks about the company. They also treat us junior engineers condescendingly, when frankly we have more updated education than they. Does this have anything to do with the age gap? They are Baby Boomers and we belong to Generation Y or the Nexters. How can we bridge the gap?

Disgruntled Nexter

You present a very interesting situation at work. It makes me think how paradoxical it is, that with the presence of technology where one can get connected quickly through a cell phone, there continues to be the "great divide," at work. In one company I know, people who are next door to each other choose to send e-mails instead of communicating face to face.

Great divide

What are the great divides at work in some companies? There is the divide between management and labor; there is the divide between the powerful and the powerless; there is the divide between people from marketing and production. Now, there is the divide among Baby Boomers, Generation X and Generation Y or the Nexters.

Can we do something about these "divides?" Yes, we can and we should. In the past years, companies have understood the need for people to work in teams. Working in teams requires having a mindset that values diversity to utilize the wealth of experience and greater creativity that arise when different people work together.

Going back to your concerns, understanding the different generations is one way to bridge the generation gap. Generations differ because the period and the defining events in which people grow up differ. The Nexters are those born into computers. They are the pampered generation, sheltered, with access to the Internet and exposed to globalization, a plethora of products and environmental concerns. Their core values are confidence, civic duty, achievement, sociability, morality and diversity. They are "street smart," optimistic and tenacious. They prefer collective action.

On the other hand, the Baby Boomers are the post-war babies, who thought they could change the world and make it a better place. Today, they hold most of the best jobs and occupy important positions. They are the children of the post-war boom and the Cold War, protesters of the Vietnam War, and adherents of Women's Liberation. Their core values are optimism, teamwork, personal gratification, health and wellness, personal growth, youth and involvement. They are driven, constantly looking for meaning at work, not adverse to working long hours to fulfill themselves and possess an ambiguous attitude towards authority. Baby boomers are transition people in relation to technology. Your supervisors may be the same age as your mom or dad.

ILLUSTRATION BY JED ESTRADA

Not typical

Based on these descriptions, the Baby Boomers you encounter at work are not typical. And just like Nexters, they can be "crabby" sometimes. Some Baby Boomers can be negative and pessimistic in outlook. Those who are may see themselves as victims of change. Or with downsizing efforts in the workplace targeting those above forty, they may feel insecure. Or if they are unable to achieve their vision within the company, they may somehow feel betrayed.

Try to understand where they are coming from. The company has to continue to regard them with esteem and of significant value to keep them motivated. A lot of them know how to cherish and enjoy life. Many of them love mentoring people who are of Generation X and Y to adjust to the workplace faster.

No walls

Why not build bridges instead of walls? Make them feel important by seeking their advice and counsel on certain aspects of the work. While you may have updated engineering knowledge, there is a lot of wisdom that Baby Boomers can give you that are not in the books. Ask your superior if a buddy system can be started in your unit where a more experienced person becomes a mentor to a less experienced engineer.

Don't allow yourself to get discouraged by negative remarks. Remember, you have a choice as to the attitude you take in these circumstances. Try to improve the things you can control and influence. And have the serenity to accept the things you can't do anything about. You can also be more assertive and convey to the Baby Boomers that you want to be treated with respect like an adult. You can state your needs without the other person feeling degraded or humiliated. You can be direct and honest, while respecting the opinion or view of the other person.

Thank you for making the first move to bridge the generation gap at work. All the best.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice for problems at work through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

Are you addicted to work?

RECIPES*for* LEARNING

By
Moje Ramos-Aquino

ARE you a workaholic? Working long and hard is a laudable work style. Though it is not exactly a wise way to Manage Time to Achieve Life Plans While Enjoying a Balanced Life. How many hours do you spend working at your workstation, at home, while traveling, wherever you are? Working hard is not a bad idea if you are saving lives. But it is a very bad habit if you do it and neglect the other aspects of your life—social, love, spiritual, intellectual and emotional.

So how do you know you are a workaholic? If you exhibit habitually any one of these symptioms from this list, you are a workaholic. These are from the Internet, particularly from essays of Dr. Donald E. Westmore, a time management expert in the USA. I adapted the list to the Filipino setting.

Symptoms

You are a workaholic:

- If you are frustrated that they don't allow laptops on a roller coaster.
- If you are frustrated that the government has declared the afternoon of Oct. 31 and the whole day of Nov. 2 as non-working holidays and continuously complain about regular holidays.
- If you don't drink any beverage during your work hours because you'll lose time having to go to the bathroom.
- If watching movies on HBO, Star TV, Hallmark Channel and Viva Presents is your idea of a vacation.
- If watching Game Ka Na Ba, Who Wants to be a Millionaire and The Weakest Link is your idea of your personal continuing education program.
- If you always have a working break, i.e., you work during your lunch and snack time. You even take your lunch at your workstation while you continue working.
- If hobbies and leisure activities are things you will get into when you "get the time."
- If you failed to at least spend time with your child during his birthday, graduation and other milestone events in his life.
- If you wished you weren't so stressed but know that you will feel better as soon as you "beat the deadline."
- If you promised your spouse and children "this is the only Sunday I'll work" more than three times in the last three months.
- If you bring your work to your son's basketball game, birthday party, graduation party or your family's outing.
- If you work extra time everyday and go home late tired and irritated.
- If you use your cellphone in the bathroom, at work or at home, to talk to colleagues.
- If you have not been under the sun in the past few months or the sun becomes too glaring for you.
- If it is difficult to remember the last time you went out with your family or friends.
- If it bothers you that you are always at work before and after everyone else.
- If you have not had a deep and long conversation with God in the past year.
- If you can't name your spouse's favorite perfume or your child's favorite rock band.
- If elderly people make you impatient.
- If people at parties seem to want to leave you and "get another glass of water" just when you were really getting into telling them about your job.
- If you don't feel guilty anymore about missing a family dinner.
- If you have a family picture on your desk or your wallet as a reminder of how your family looks like.
- If your idea of a night out with your friends is to trade stories about your jobs.
- If your boss continually delegates work to you or your co-workers pass on their work to you and you can not say "no."
- If your co-workers have started to give you synthetic smiles.
- If you're drinking coffee in a dirty coffee cup from yesterday or if your ashtray is brimming with cigarette butts.
- If your idea of an intimate anniversary celebration is to take your spouse to a formal business dinner.
- If a clown is not so funny, an owl is not so wise, and you think that there is really no Santa Claus.
- If the last outrageous or crazy thing that you did was over 10 years ago.
- If a three-year old girl holding a stuffed doll under her arm does not cause you to stop and watch.
- If your spouse has been complaining about your "lack of communication" and is now talking to the lawyers about separation or annulment,
- If you have become financially independent but continue to work with the same employer or stay on your current occupation.
- If you joined a health and fitness club and stopped going within the first 30 days (the time to establish a new physical or emotional habit).
- If you have stopped daydreaming in meetings and at work.
- If you think you need to answer all your e-mails including the "forwards."
- If you are getting less than four hours sleep every night.
- If you are always in a "crisis" mode.

Escapism

In the workplace, bosses usually give work they want done to a workaholic or busy person rather than an idle one. An idle person will take time to finish a job just so he could fill his time and say he is busy working on something when asked. A workaholic will immediately tackle the extra work so that he could go back to his own work soonest.

Being a workaholic, though, does not mean you are being productive. Very often, workaholics concentrate on trivia and things of little value 80 percent of the time. You may not necessarily be doing the right things. You might be substituting work, which is your comfort zone, for life goals that you are not achieving.

Work might give you a false sense of security. Work might seem therapeutic to a workaholic initially but not for long. Being a workaholic, like being a *shopaholic* or alcoholic, could be an illness, a form of escapism or defense mechanism.

Furthermore, if you always do what you've always been doing, you will always get what you have always got. Time management is life management. Work is just one part of life that enhances your financial, intellectual and emotional life. Go get a life!

Personal

One of my perks writing this column is that I am able to connect with friends from long ago and from everywhere. I am happy to be reunited with my UE's Kappa Gamma Omega Sorority sisters Malou Amante and Raquel Meran-Jacobo with our brother fraternity Delta Omega Delta brother Ramiro "Jake" Jacobo. We are calling on all KGO and DOD sis and bros to please get in touch with me through this column or Jake/Raquel (02-7347739 or 02-8227023 or 0919-8233771) or Malou (02-7761341. We are working on pockets of small get-togethers these days and then a general reunion on January 2002. Miss *ko na kayo, grabe!*

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com*)*

How do you get along better with your boss?

WORKING WOUNDED

By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: My boss and I aren't particularly close. Any thoughts on what I can do to get her more in my corner?

Trying To Get Along With The Big Cheese

Want to get along with the big cheese? Then take a tip from a rat! Professor Jack Panksepp of Bowling Green University has been studying the critters for years and he's reached a surprising conclusion: rats just love to be tickled.

According to the Associated Press and News of the Weird, Professor Panksepp "coochy-coos" the napes of their little necks and then uses highly sensitive instruments to measure their responsive noises. His discovery: rats make high-pitched sounds that are beyond the human register and are unmistakable sounds of pleasure.

So, the conclusion is obvious: if you want to get along with your boss, find ways to tickle her fancy. Specifically, find ways to make her look good. For advice on how to do this, I turned to Bob Weinstein's book, "I Hate My Boss" (McGraw Hill, 1998). It's a lively read that covers all aspects of dealing with a difficult boss, and I've adapted the following from it.

1. Can you learn to complement your boss' weaknesses? Some bosses are weak when it comes to technology, others are detail-challenged, others can't write their way out of a paper bag. If you can identify your boss' weak spots and then tactfully lend support, you may find a way to pull ahead in the rat race. Tactfulness is the key, however. Don't acknowledge the weakness; just offer to take on a chore she needs help with. That way she'll appreciate your offer, rather than bite your head off.

2. Can you be an advocate for your boss? Unless you work for Donald Trump, your boss probably has a boss, too. Put in a good word on her behalf! Be sincere about it, though. If you sound like Eddie Haskell on Leave It To Beaver, it probably won't work.

3. Can you take grunt work off your boss' hands? I'm not talking about your boss' weaknesses here. I'm talking about the yucky jobs that you know she hates to do. Making cold calls, filling out paperwork, checking on suppliers... Whatever it is that makes her grunt with displeasure, offer to take it on. Now, don't become a martyr: unless your goal in life is to be a sherpa, you want to make that offer selectively. But occasionally sharing the workload can only strengthen your bond.

4. Do you keep your boss informed? Successful bosses don't have eyes in the back of their heads; they just have loyal employees who look in every direction for them. What have you heard on the grapevine, or read in the paper, or heard from an acquaintance that might serve your boss well? Feed her juicy tidbits and she'll repay your kindness.

I guess the upshot is: there are many ways to please a rat. Now it's your turn to coochy-coo.

Here are the results of our last WorkingWounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: How far would you go to make your boss look good?

—Only if it's in my job description, 26.9 percent

—Why should I make my boss look good, 33.3 percent

—As far as it takes, 39.6 percent

Our winning strategy for making your boss look good comes from M.A. in Visalia, CA. "I am a boss. You are absolutely incorrect when you say complement your boss' weaknesses. That is so transparent and untruthful. If you don't think that your boss is aware of his or her own weaknesses, then you don't belong in their employment. But, your point about keeping the boss informed is important. Consider the fact that a boss is rarely able to sit and have a beer with the boys. No one would like to go out with the boss and yet everyone would like to be the boss. That's the irony. If you are able to head off problems for the boss without becoming a suspect among employees, then you are more valuable than any grunt."

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com*)*

Small cable firms retain Star TV

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

EVEN though leading cable television industry players Sky Vision Corp. and Phil. Home Cable Holdings Corp. have already dropped Star TV Group's channels from their program lineups, other local cable operators are not about to follow suit.

Philippine Cable Television Association Inc. president J. Manuel Dabao said in a statement yesterday that the smaller operators will still continue airing Star TV channels despite ongoing tension between the program provider and the sister cable companies, the biggest in the industry.

"Sky (Cable) and Home (Cable) may not carry those channels anymore, but nobody can prevent the other cable operators from carrying them. The negotiation between a cable operator and a channel provider is only between the two of them. The association does not have a hand in that," he said.

As cable operators independently negotiate contracts with different content providers, they have the right to choose which ones they wanted to deal with. "You can choose whatever you want," he explained.

Metro Manila cable operators Destiny Cable, Las Piñas Cable, Parañaque Cable, Global Cable and Dream Broadcasting direct-to-home service continue to have Star TV programs in their lineups.

Another 300 other cable systems all over the country still carry Star TV channels as well.

Dabao also said that the PCTA preferred to stand on neutral ground with regard to the Sky-Home and Star TV issue. He did say, though, that they were ready to act as a mediator should any of the parties involved ask them to do so.

"It's a purely business problem which must be settled among themselves. We can act as mediator but only when they request that we mediate. We hope they would resolve this as soon as possible," Dabao said.

In an earlier interview, Dabao expressed sympathy toward SkyCable and Home Cable, saying that "Home Cable and SkyCable should be getting the best deal from the program providers because of their subscriber base."

He added that the Star TV Group had not been providing programs suited to the Filipino taste, even though the Philippines was one of its biggest markets.

"We've asked them to have tailor fit Filipino programming, to give us more programs relevant to the Philippines. If not, (viewers) will eventually lose interest," he said.

Star TV on Oct. 19 cut off signals to SkyCable and Home Cable because of P160 million in debts, it said in a paid advertisement in major dailies last week.

In an earlier interview, Sky Vision Corp. managing director Carlos Tria Jr. said that they may not carry Star TV channels anymore should negotiations turn sour. The sister cable companies had been negotiating with the content provider for reduced rates.

A week later, though, both the Sky-Home group and the Star TV Group said they were willing to go back to the negotiating table.

Guoco Securities pulls out of RP

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

GUOCO Securities Philippines Inc. has joined the growing list of foreign brokerage firms that have decided to close shop due to the sluggish local market.

Guoco Securities, a unit of the Hong Kong-based Guoco group, informed the Philippine Stock Exchange that it was shutting down its operations effective Nov. 29, making it the 11th foreign brokerage firm to pull out of the country.

Guoco did not explain its decision to pull out but other foreign brokerage houses that have suspended their operations have cited the thin trading volume at the PSE as their main reason for shutting down.

The main-share PSE composite index or Phisix has fallen by 31.3 percent since the start of the year, while total trades have shrunk by about 77 percent.

Top Singaporean financial group GK Goh Holdings Ltd. announced that it would fold up its local unit by end-November as part of overall measures to streamline operations. Malaysia-based RHB Capital Bhd. likewise said it was terminating the operations of Rashid Hussain Securities (Phils.) by yearend.

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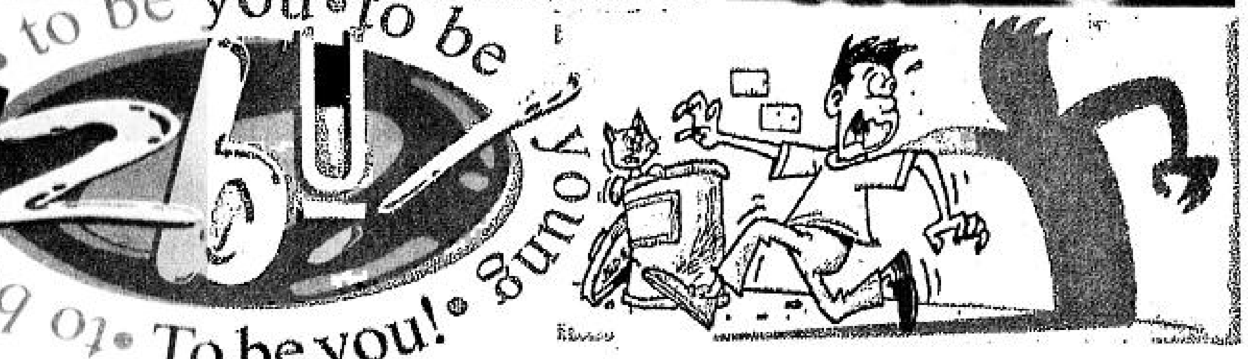
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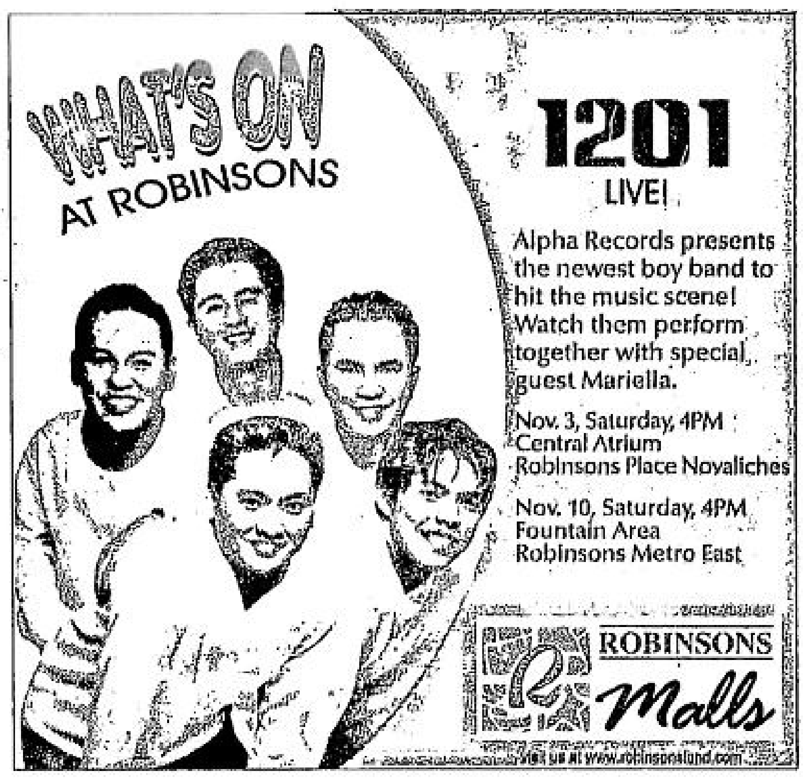
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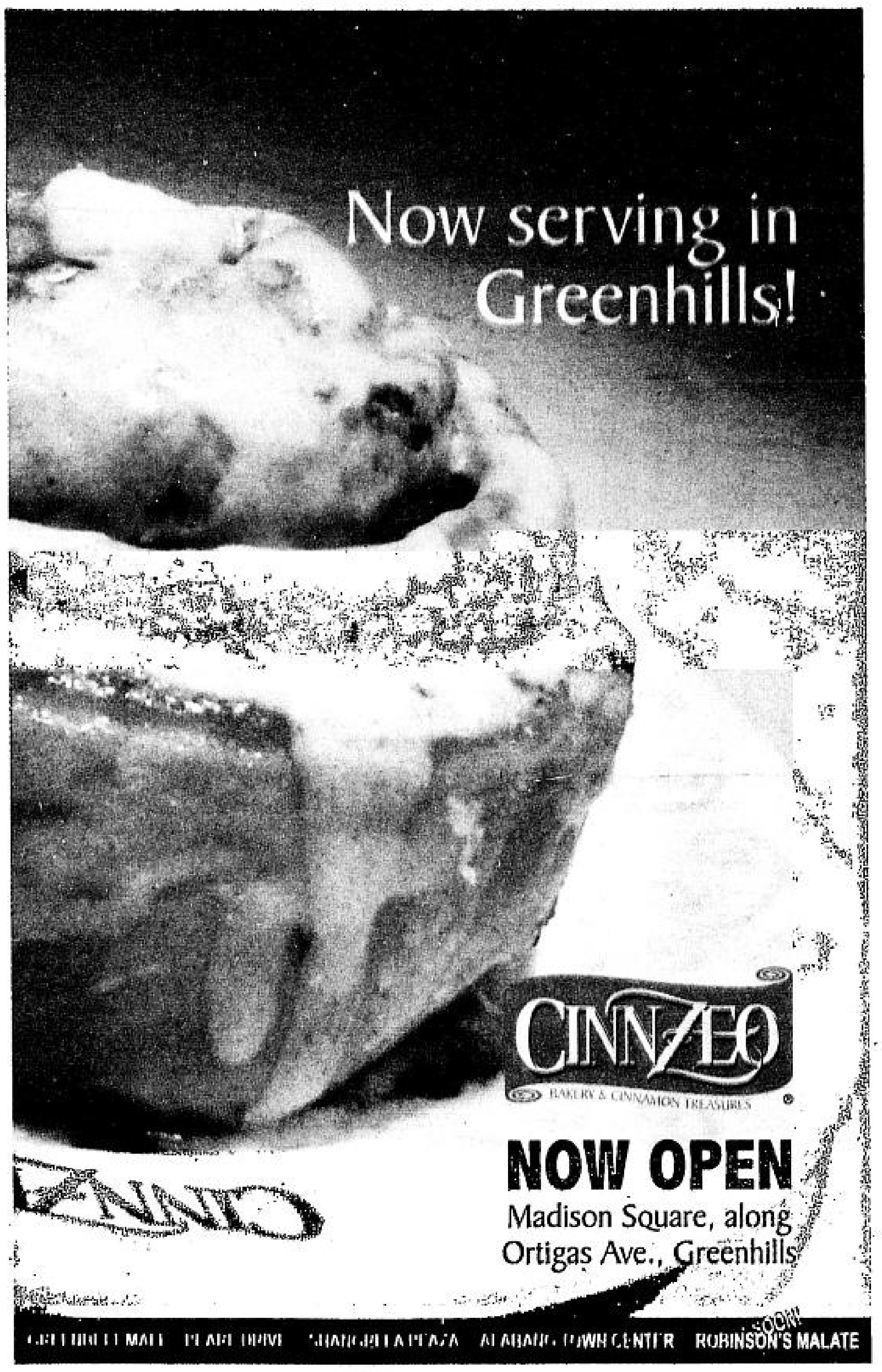
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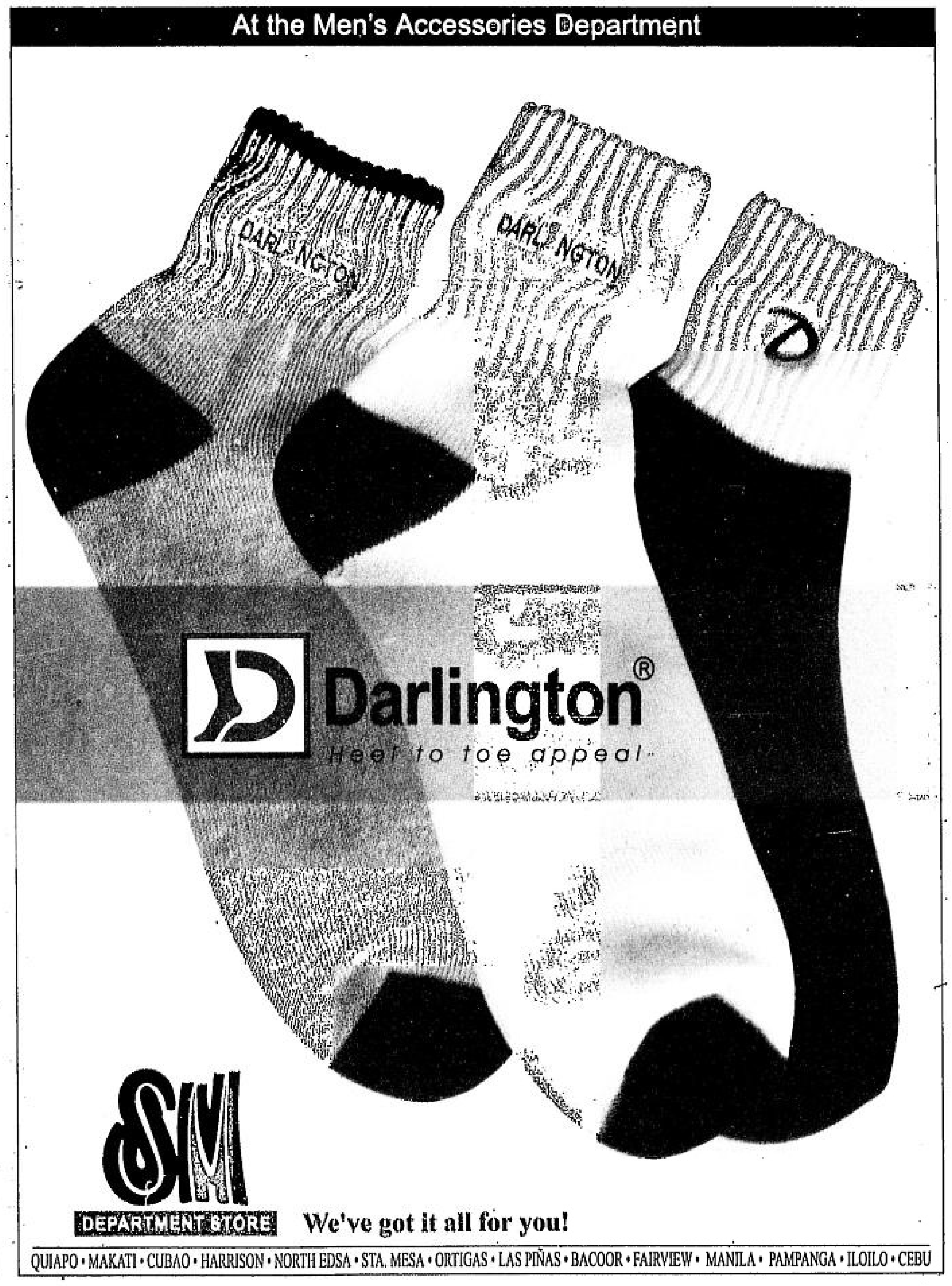
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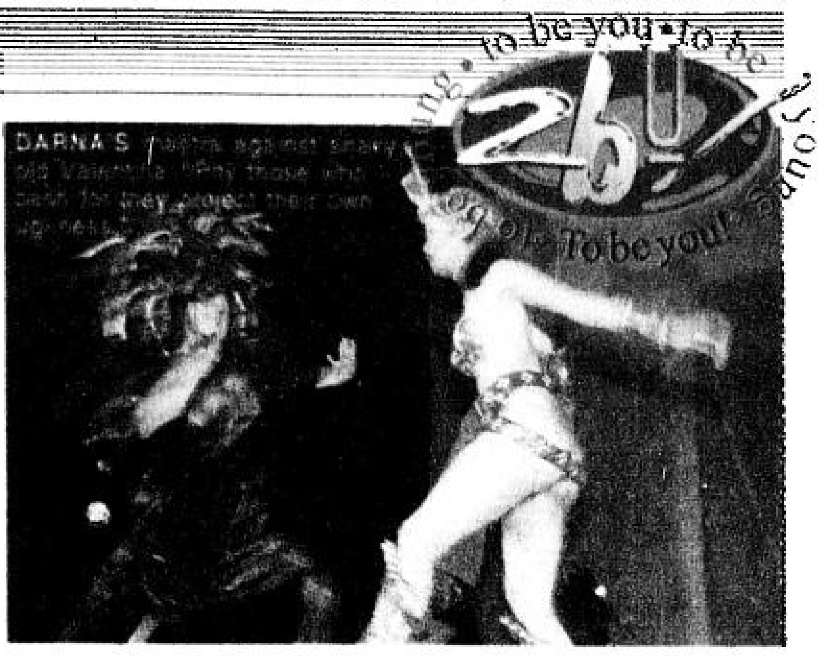
PROGENITORS OF PINOY POP. Ben Chan, Gilda Cordero-Fernando and Manny Chavez

FRONT OVATION. Ces Drilon, Ben Chan, [illegible] Jaime Zobel, [illegible] Zobel and Virgie Ramos

***JEEP NI* TEDDY.** Louie and Teddy Boy Loosin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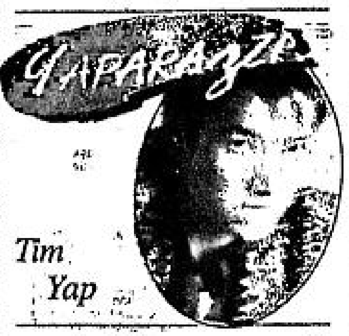
DARNA'S [illegible] against [illegible] old Valentina. [illegible] those who [illegible] they project their own [illegible]

Of pop rocks and 'jeproks'



Tim Yap

"*HANEP! Astig...*" was how one can describe the scene last weekend at The Fort where lifestyle retail royalty Ben Chan, literary diva Gilda Cordero-Fernando and design genius Manny Chavez launched their groundbreaking book, "Pinoy Pop Culture."

I arrived at the NBC Tent fully dressed as Kenkoy, with hair parted on the center, in a printed suit by **Rajo Laurel**. Polka dots filled the venue as ushers dressed as vendors with '*garilyo* box trays distributed treats, from Bench Bytes to *puto* with cheese and squid balls with pesto. I savored every sip of my green mango shake (without the *bagoong*, mind you) as I looked for my seat in the packed venue. All eyes were glued onstage where there was a parade of Pinoy pop pioneers—**Ernest Santiago, Allan Cosio, Gene Gonzalez, Boy Abunda, Jessica Zafra** and others who have all played a significant part in defining and redefining what is truly Pinoy.

One after the other, showstoppers grabbed the stage, from **Sylvia La Torre** to "Ate Gay" (an ab-fab **Nora Aunor** impersonator) and crooners dishing out jukebox hits. Later, a hazy highlight was the "on-air" battle of Darna and Valentina, with the two Pinays flying atop audience's heads. The crowd was equally diverse, from respected artists to media luminaries and fashion and show-biz personalities. They sang along, laughed and clapped at the revelry that was happening onstage.

To most, the laughter that was heard that night was the kind you would hear when a chord is struck from some place deep within—from childhood memories of watching movies and television, reading *komiks,* observing the things that surround our everyday Pinoy existence. Seeing them onstage, pointed out to you in ways campy and kooky, colorful and comically ours—à la extended awards night production number—was truly heartwarming.

At a time of globalization, it is indeed timely to clarify what is Pinoy—especially to a generation exposed to MTV and the Internet. I had mixed feelings about the show. In some segments I was laughing my head off; in others, I was bewildered. It may be because I belong to a different generation. Or perhaps the definition of what is Pinoy pop is evolving. Now, it is **Jolina** and **Juday**, words like *jologs*, Bro. **Mike Velarde**, San Miguel Beer, right Bhong?

Whatever it is, it is that innate yearning to trace our roots and reconnect with the past that I find so amazing and inspiring about this Bench undertaking. I watched Kenkoy and other stilted mascots traipse onstage as I relished my *sampaloc*-flavored Bench byte—then I got it.

As clear as Chocnut and "dirty" ice cream, Bench, in its own magnificent way, is trying its best to bring to our generation its version of the Pinoy lifestyle—a true pioneer and scene innovator. Instead of going the easy way by copying others, it tries to stretch the boundaries and constantly reinvent the wheel. Instead of staging flashy gimmicks, it tries to go inside and out to bring out what it truly values and nourishes—the Filipino heart and soul.

I realize that being truly Pinoy goes beyond what you wear, what you eat or what you read—it goes deep within. Grab a copy of "Pinoy Pop Culture" and get closer to who we are, *jeproks* or *jologs*, *sosi* or *senti*.

JOYCE FIXATION. Joyce Jimenez and Diether Ocampo

PHOTOS: TIM YAP

ARTSY FARTSY. Allan Cosio

BRIGHT burst from Boy Abunda

"BE our guest," says Chef Gene Gonzalez.

EYE CANDY. *Walangdyaw! Naka-japorms si* Kidlat Tahimik!

"WARAY, Waray!" La Torre makes a dramatic entrance. But where's Che Che?

LOVELY Lucy Torres

JEPROKS on a bench chilling out

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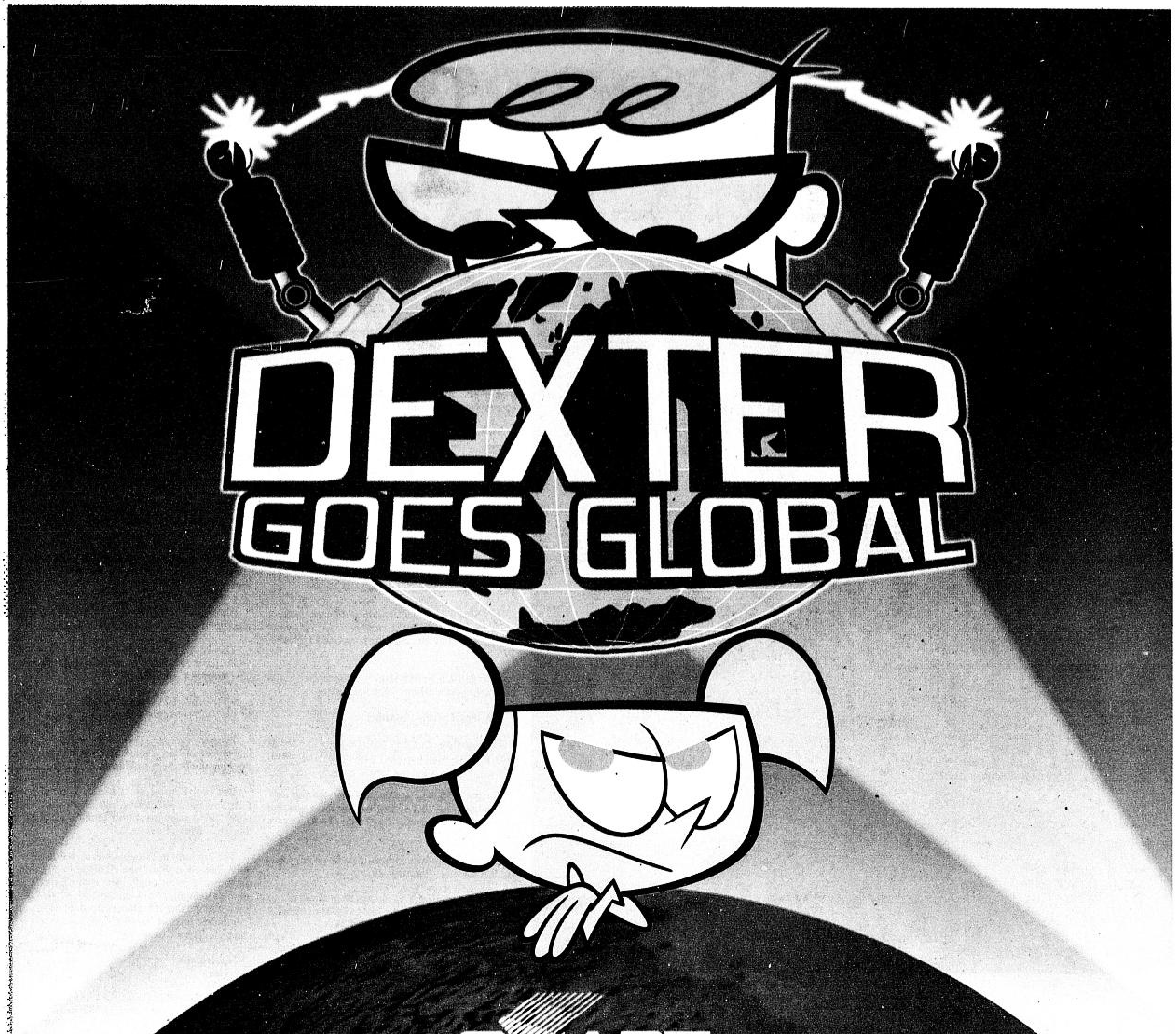

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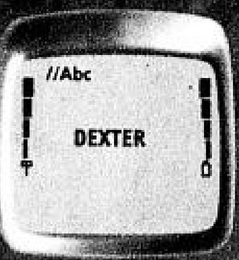
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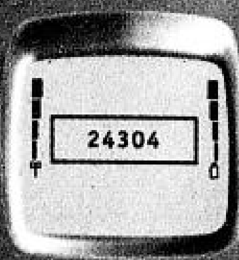
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2. Send to 24304.

Welcome to DEXTER GOES GLOBAL PROMO! Please register now so you can start voting...

3. You will then receive. Follow text instruction to fully register.

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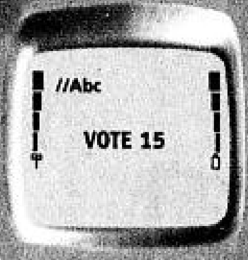
Just answer the question: *What is your favorite Dexter's Laboratory episode?*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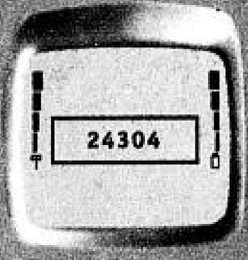
VOTE 15

1. Type in VOTEspace Episode Number.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2. Send to 24304.

You have just voted for EPISODE #15: The Beard to be Feared.

3. You will then receive this.

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IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1. 1 vote = 1 virtual raffle point. SMART subscribers can vote for as many episodes as s/he wants, anytime of the day within the promotional period.
2. Promotion runs from October 21-November 11, 2001.
3. All successful entries will be charged ₱2.50 per message sent.
4. Prizes are as follows:
   a. 5 winners of a SMART Buddy Nokia 3310 phone kit. (Exclusive to SMART Text Promo contestants only)
5. Other prizes (For Dexter Goes Global Text Promotion, E-mail and Mail contestants)
   a. 1 winner of "Rock Em Sock Em" toy showcase from Bankee worth ₱6,297.75
   b. 10 winners of Cartoon Network Dexter's Laboratory goodie bags to include a crayon set, envelope, postcard and poster.
6. Grand draw will be on November 19, 2001.

* Logos, Picture Messages and Ring Tones are supported by selected Nokia handsets. SMART Cartoon Network rates: ₱2.50 per inquiry • ₱12.00 per download.

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Who gives you the goosebumps?

The white lady of Balete, the town witch, and even your Spanish teacher—they are the 'creatures' who hound you in your worst nightmares

THOSE days when you checked under your bed and inside your closet before going to sleep are long gone. Creak-creaks no longer send shivers down your spine. Monsters from movies and those that hide in the recesses of your imagination have since then been waved away by logic and reason that supposedly come as the candles on your birthday cake multiply. The creatures that scare you now are more real; in fact, you interact with some of them every day. 2bU! makes the readers confess. Who—or what—scares you the most?

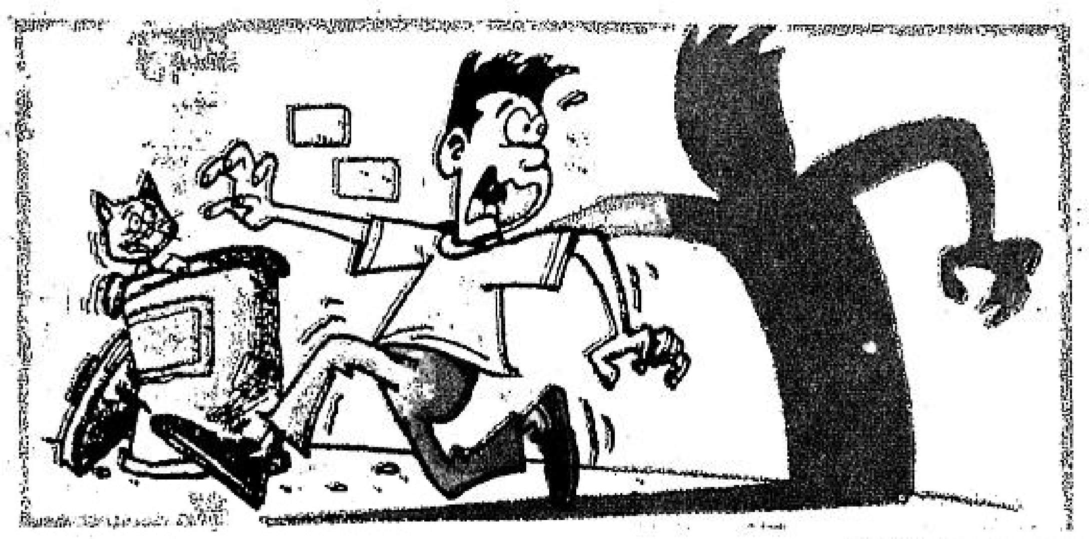


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

I'm scared of clowns. Their grins give me the shivers.—**Bunny, 19**

Senators. No explanation necessary.—**Carlo Ledesma, 26**

I was scared of my preschool teacher. I don't know why. Maybe because she looked like a gorilla.—**Alvin, 25**

My close friends, especially Chris and Jules, because they know me so well that I can't hide anything from them.—**Auster**

My Spanish teacher. *Pag nagsalita siya parang kakainin ka niya. Kung tumingin parang alam niyang may ginawa kang masama.*—**BJ Collado, 19**

The anti-Christ, Saddam, terrorists, evil cults and biological warfare.—**Carlos Agassi**

My thesis panel.—**Manuel**

Girls so desperate they resort to guys like me. If only a cross would work... damn!—**Eldric Paul, 19**

Images of headless creatures haunted me during childhood. What scared me the most was the decapitated Bugs Bunny I had when I was 6 years old.—**Gabby, 19**

Christina Aguilera without makeup on and Osama Bin Laden.—**Tammy, 18**

Since I was a kid, I've always been afraid of my dad. He's always been the big guy—authoritative figure who disciplined me.—**Myk26**

People I don't know because I don't know what they're capable of.—**Chris, 22**

An angry girlfriend.—**GP Reyes**

Black dwarves. They're said to be very sensitive and can inflict pain and harm thoughtlessly and inconsiderately to humans who get in their way.—**Edwin**

Jesus. If He appears in front of me, I wouldn't know what to do. I am not worthy of His presence.—**Roy, 22**

I'm scared of my mom because she makes my life a living hell.—**Ed, 21**

Girls who think they're all that even when they're not. It's scary. Where do they get their guts?—**Tina, 22**

Egyptian mummies and zombies. These monsters give me the creeps. How can they be killed if they're dead already? Yikes!—**Jakyry, 21**

My dad.—**Leidy, 19**

I'm scared of clowns in the dark. They remind me of Chuckie on "Child's Play."—**JP, 19**

Black lady. Ever since I watched a Halloween special of "Magandang Gabi, Bayan" in 1992, I've always imagined that there's a black lady lurking somewhere.—**Tana, 19**

The white lady. There's one where I live. My place is near Balete Drive.—**Heart**

The *kapre* because it's big and scary and it looks like it could eat you and take you to hell with it.—**Ronnie Gonzalez, 19**

Takot ako sa dentista. Ewan ko, basta takot ako sa dentista.—**Archie Jude C.**

Fetuses scare me. There was one in our science lab before. I can't stand looking at them, even thinking about them.—**Momo, 17**

Ben and Benson of "I Know What You Did Last Summer." Whenever I watch the movie, they never fail to scare me. I love Jennifer Love Hewitt though.—**Marc Leviste, 23**

The old lady in Pitogo, Quezon that I accidentally glanced at. She lived all alone in a hut in the middle of a semi-jungle area with all those dead animals hanging on a clothesline. Folks in the town told me that she practiced witchcraft and that I shouldn't look at her. But I did and it was very creepy.—**John Roson, 19**

Me. Because I'm very spontaneous.—**Jon Rodney Tan**

Who? Killers, hold-up men and the like. Because they killed my cousin.—**Marian Castro, 18**

Maleficent of "Sleeping Beauty." She had the ugliest pair of yellow eyes and the most menacing stare. Her raspy cajoling for Princess Aurora to prick her fingers are like fingernails on a blackboard. And her metamorphosis into the dragon always scares me into thinking that it's going to be the end of the world.—**Cheryl Tiu, 17**

I'm scared of traffic aides especially those who have motorcycles because even if I don't mean to be one, I'm a reckless driver.—**Ruth, 19**

Have a screaming good time at Enchanted Kingdom.

When was the last time you screamed at the top of your lungs, and nobody minded? Now's your chance to release all that pent-up energy, at Enchanted Kingdom's Halloween bash. Get loud and proud as your top bands serve up a dose of heart-pounding music, and your favorite DJs give you a monster mix of tunes to get your feet moving. And for the kids, there's animated fun, with the release of Charlotte's Web video and Pikachu mascot appearance. It's Halloween fun the way only Enchanted Kingdom can give it. So step right up for some monstrous good times.

Enchanted Kingdom

NU 107's Party Monsters On The Loose 2
Oct 27, 4-9 pm, Launch Pad
Listen to NU 107 for a chance to win a free EK pass to watch five hours of rock music from Slapshock, Imago, Battery, The Brownbeat All-Stars, and Sandwich.
RX 93.1's Scream All You Want
Oct 28, 5:30-9:30 pm, Brooklyn
Your favorite DJs and newscasters take centerstage with up-and-coming band 9mm, to give you a wild dance party with face-painting and fortune-telling sessions on the side.

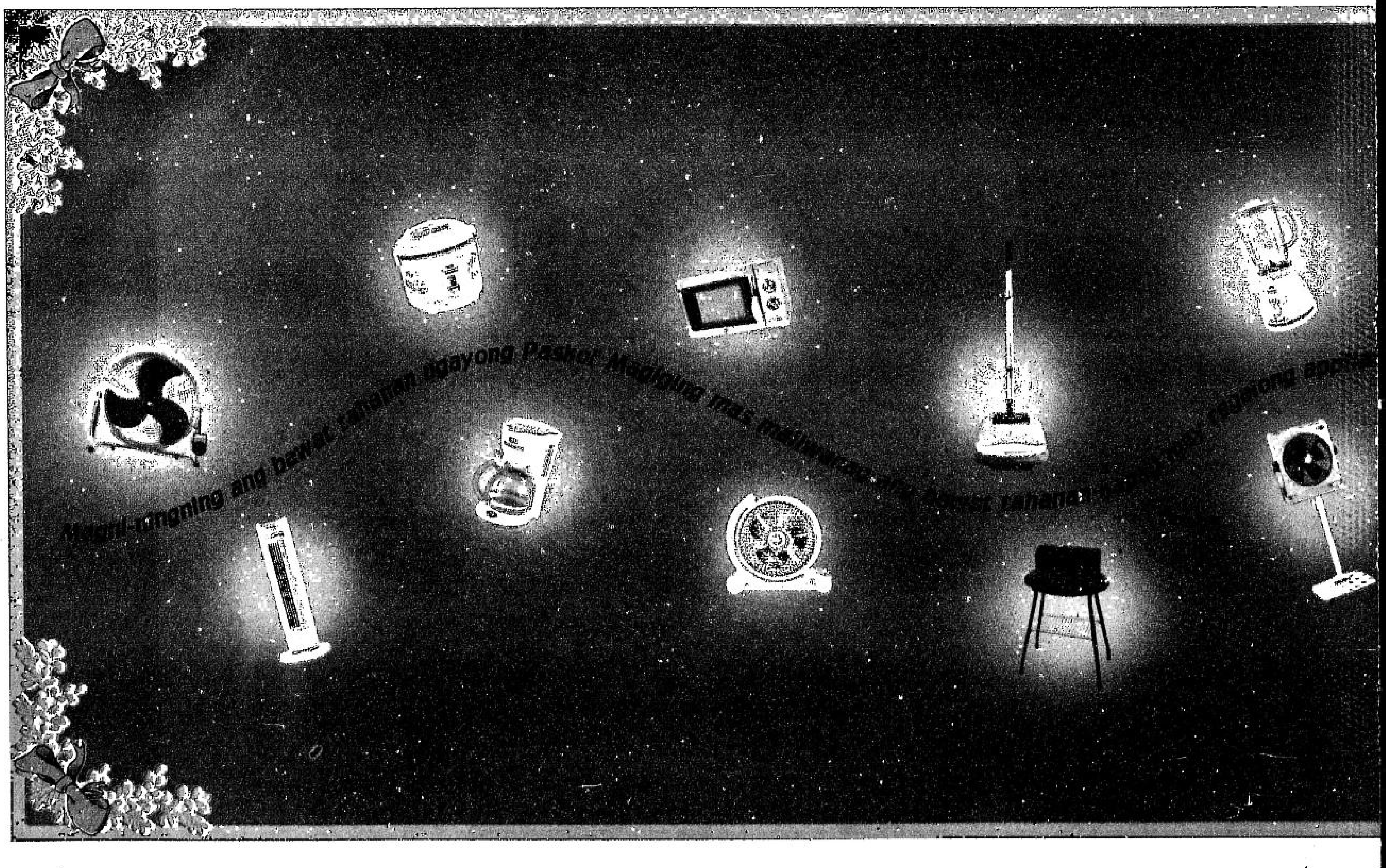
Charlotte's Web video release
Oct 31, 4 pm, Bandstand
The animated musical adaptation of EB White's best-selling novel is now on video, and we're celebrating with a variety show. Join fun games too, and win exciting prizes!
Pikachu mascot appearance
Oct 31, 3:00-3:30 pm and 5:00-5:30 pm, Bandstand
Let the kids get up close and personal with one of the ever-popular Pokemon characters. He'll jive, high-five, and even pose with the kids for pictures.

It's Back! The Lucky Visitor of the Day
Visit on any of the above dates, and you can win five VIP passes so you and your friends don't have to line up, plus free P500 in Wizard Money, and a souvenir photo with the Wizard!

SPECIAL HALLOWEEN SCHEDULE
Oct 31 to Nov 4, 10 am to 10 pm
Grand fireworks display at 9 pm

PEPSI · Wrigley's JUICY FRUIT · Knott's · tropical ice

Makati Sales Office: Amtrust Leisure Corporation G/F. Tropical Palms Condominium, De la Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City • **Park Address:** Enchanted Kingdom, San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna • **Tel. No.:** 830-3111 to 17, 843-6071 to 78 . **Tickets also available at all Ticketworld outlets:** National Bookstore Branches, Tower Records (Makati, Alabang), Robinson's Dept. Stores (Galleria, Manila), Ticketworld Head Office.


Magni-tingning ang bawat tahanan ngayong Pasko! Magiging mas

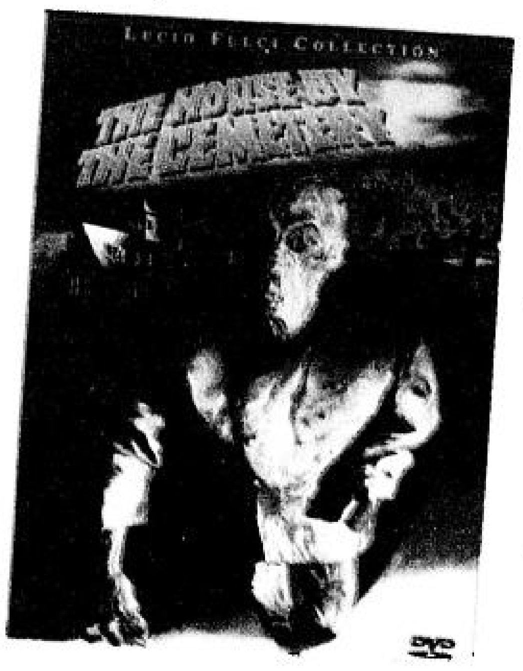
Rated spooky movies

BY: MARILESS V. VILLAMAR
2bU! Correspondent

IT'S Halloween, so what to do? Do you throw a party? Go clubbing? Continue your *barkada's* ghost-tripping tradition?

The possibilities are endless. All it requires is creativity. But for some of us, curling up on the couch with a bowl of popcorn and watching your favorite scary movie for the nth time with friends is enough. But sometimes, even your all-time favorite gets a bit too much if you have to watch it over and over again. I personally have had enough of Jennifer Love Hewitt's scream fests to last me a lifetime.

So what are promising alternatives to get into the right spooky mood for Halloween? If you want what could pass for "classic" blood and gore films, these selections are for you. At the very least, you will realize that they don't make scary movies like they used to. These films may just have you hiding under the covers and sleeping with the lights on for days.



If you want 'classic' blood and gore films, these selections are for you

Happy Ghouls Day!

"The Uninvited" (1944): Ray Milland and his sister Ruth Hussey purchase a house on the Cornish seacoast only to discover that it is—yep, you guessed it—haunted. Gail Russel, whose mother is supposedly one of the ghosts, visits them one day. Two ghosts haunt the manor; one wants to harm Russel while the other shields her from harm. The movie is based on the novel by Dorothy Macardle and remains one of the spookiest haunted house films ever made.

"The Birds" (1963): This is one of Alfred Hitchcock's excellent movies. It is loosely based on a Daphne du Maurier short story. The protagonist is Tippi Hedren, who appears in an idyllic coastal village of Bodega Bay with her two lovebirds (real birds, okay?). The birds suddenly sparks an all-out war among humans, causing havoc and terror in the sleepy coastal village. The movie is a depiction of a world where nature can go chillingly mad.

"Carrie" (1976): Based on a Stephen King novel, this is the story of Carrie White, a girl brought up by a psychotic and overly religious mother. Her classmates pull a prank on her, which earns them a disciplinary action from one of their teachers. Her classmates resent her for this and try to get back at her. Too bad for them because Carrie unleashes her mental powers during prom night. This is a definite nail-biter until the end.

"The Evil Dead" (1982): I know, I know, zombie movies are a dime a dozen, but believe me, you'll wet your pants with this one. The story is about five teens who head into the woods for a weekend of fun in an isolated cabin. They discover in the basement "The Book of the Dead" and a tape recording of incantations. Fooling around with those things unleashes evil spirits and they are turned into hideous demons. Ash (Bruce Campbell) is left with the task of dismembering his friends, the only way to kill the possessed.

"Rosemary's Baby" (1968): Rosemary (Mia Farrow) and her struggling actor-husband (John Cassavetes) move into a Manhattan apartment with a lot of quirky neighbors. Before long, her husband's career is on the upswing so they begin planning a family. Rosemary is suddenly haunted by vague recollections of a dream where she was raped by a beast while her neighbors watched. This movie frightens because so much of it seem possible.

"The Shining" (1980): A struggling writer and recovering alcoholic (Jack Nicholson) and his wife (Shelley Duvall) agree to be caretakers of the lavish Overlook Hotel for the winter. The hotel sits above a Native American burial grounds and has a rather interesting story behind it. The couple's clairvoyant 5-year-old son is troubled by visions of "redrum" written on the walls (try to guess what that means). Nicholson starts to lose his mind and his wife fears that he is headed for a breakdown. The story could end tragically with Nicholson hacking his family to death just like the previous caretaker of the hotel.

"Children of the Corn" (1984): Based on a Stephen King novel, this movie is a favorite of mine because it gave me the worst nightmares when I was a kid. It is about two travelers who take a wrong turn on the highway and stumble upon a mysterious and unfamiliar town where all the adults are dead and the children are in charge. The children have formed their own religion by worshiping an unknown force in the cornfield. Whenever the children would murder someone, they would say the word "kill" over and over. Talk about s-c-a-r-y.

"The Fog" (1980): The story is basically about the dead returning to haunt the living and set in a fictional American Seaside town, Antonio Bay. Many years ago, a tragic accident happened involving the community, and the lighthouse in particular, which caused a ship to be misdirected causing the death of its passengers and crew. Ghosts from the ill-fated ship come back to haunt the townspeople and kill anyone who stands in their way. A fog usually precedes the murders. Jamie Lee Curtis hitchhikes into the bay and hooks up with world-weary trucker Nick Castle just as the town is paralyzed with fear and terror. The leader of the avenging ghosts is Blake who apparently is out for revenge. A diary is found at the town church revealing the town's true and dark history.

"House by the Cemetery" (1982): Dr. Boyle is assigned to finish the research on suicide conducted by Professor Peterson before he murdered his mistress and hung himself. As fate would have it, Boyle chooses to finish the research in the eerie Freudstein house. His wife Lucy is spooked by the tomb under the house as well as the many tombstones in the garden. Childlike moaning and screams pierce the night soon after they move in. Their son suddenly acquires a mysterious "playmate" and the nanny disappears without a trace. All this affects Lucy's fragile state of mind. Is there someone, or rather something, living in the basement?

Teen Tees
Strikingly simple
To see is to believe.
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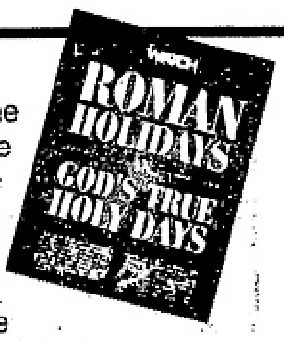

Free copies of the exciting brochure *Roman Holidays vs. God's True Holy Days* will be distributed FREE OF CHARGE at the lecture. You can also write or call us for your free copies through the information provided below.

The Church of God, International (Philippines)
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Should Christians Observe Halloween?

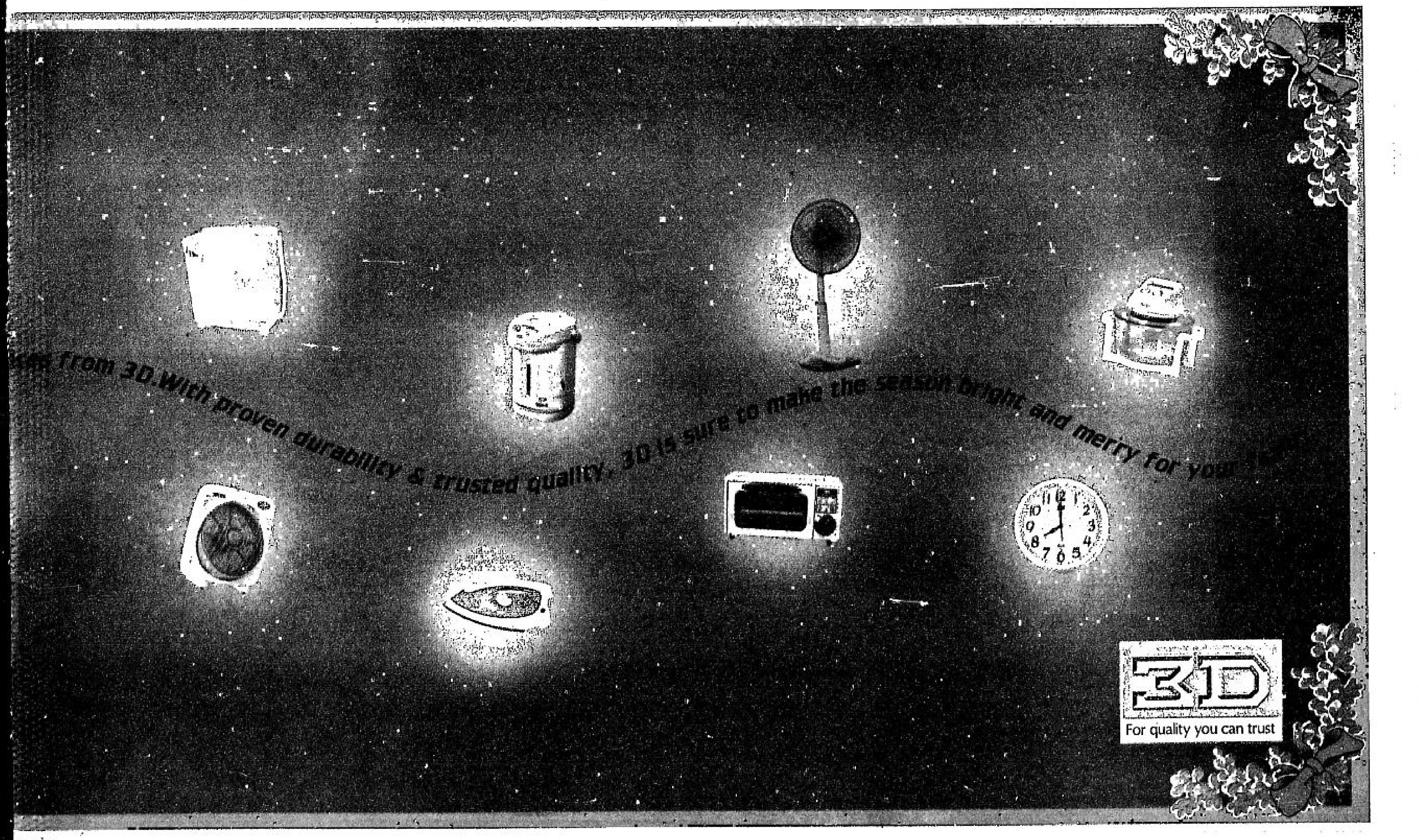
Goblins, witches, trolls, demons, poltergeists, black cats, broomsticks and jack-o-lanterns—what has all these got to do with Christ?

The Christian world, by celebrating Halloween, unknowingly observes an ancient pagan festival honoring Samhain—the lord of the dead!

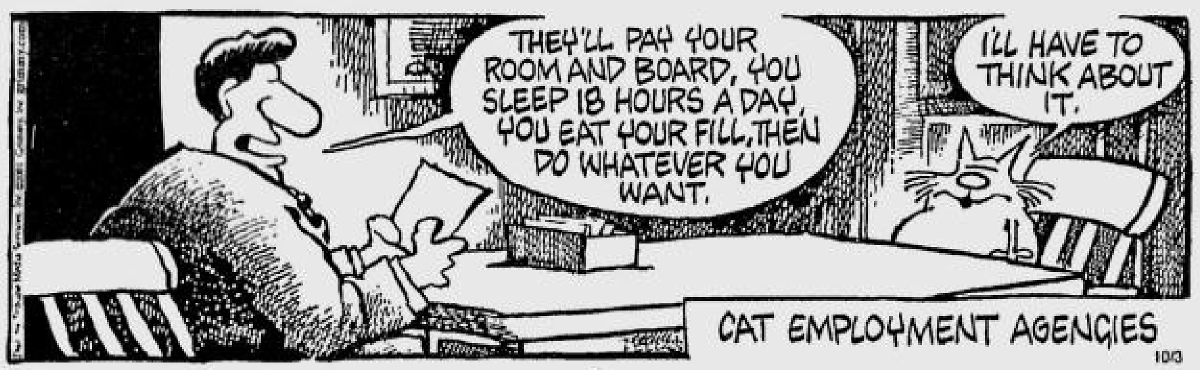
Scriptures tell us to " learn not the way of the heathen." (Jeremiah 10:2)

YOU ARE INVITED
to a journey of discovery!
ADMISSION IS FREE!
What: Video and interactive discussion on Halloween, it's origins and observance.
When: November 3, 2001 2-4 PM
Where: METRO MANILA
Lubang Function Room
EDSA Plaza Hotel, Ortigas Centre
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
BICOL REGION
Bicol Science & Technology Centrum
J. Miranda Avenue, Naga City
ILOILO CITY
Oleander Function Room
Amigo Terrace Hotel, Cor. Iznart & Delgado Streets., Iloilo City

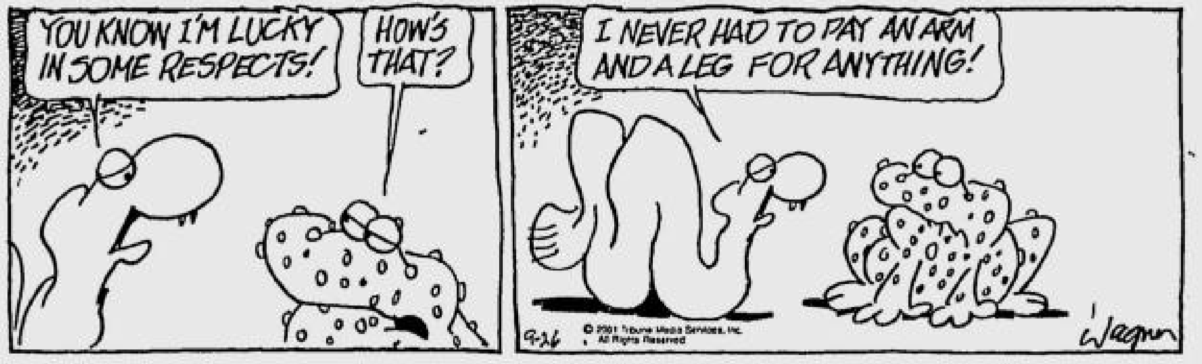
Yes! I'd like to request for a copy of the FREE brochure *Roman Holidays vs. God's Holy Days?*
NAME
ADDRESS


from 3D. With proven durability & trusted quality, 3D is sure to make the season bright and merry for your
3D
For quality you can trust

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


THEY'LL PAY YOUR ROOM AND BOARD, YOU SLEEP 18 HOURS A DAY, YOU EAT YOUR FILL, THEN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT.
CAT EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES
10/3

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


YOU KNOW I'M LUCKY IN SOME RESPECTS!
HOW'S THAT?
I NEVER HAD TO PAY AN ARM AND A LEG FOR ANYTHING!
9-26
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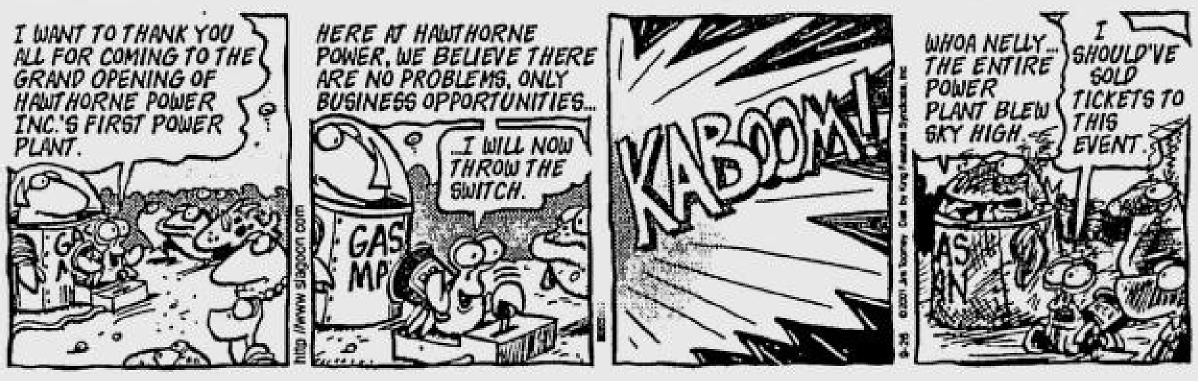
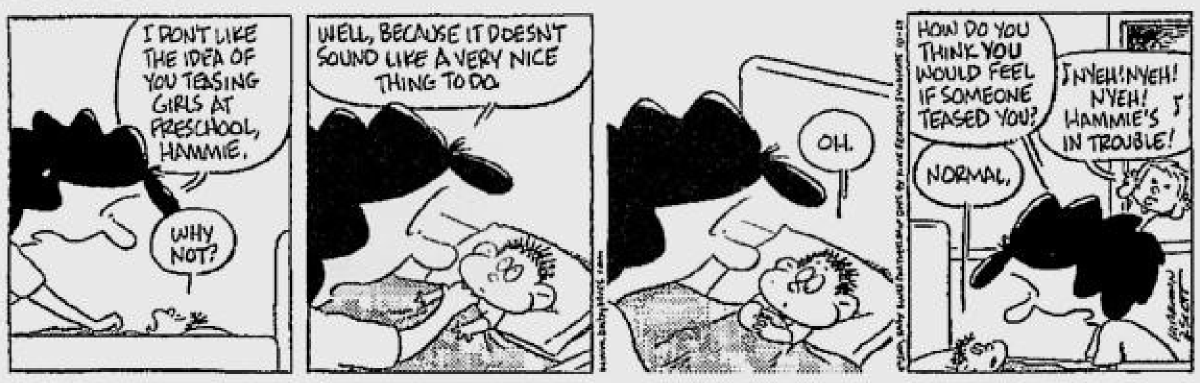
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TO THE GRAND OPENING OF HAWTHORNE POWER INC.'S FIRST POWER PLANT.
HERE AT HAWTHORNE POWER, WE BELIEVE THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS, ONLY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES...
...I WILL NOW THROW THE SWITCH.
GAS
KABOOM!
WHOA NELLY... THE ENTIRE POWER PLANT BLEW SKY HIGH.
I SHOULD'VE SOLD TICKETS TO THIS EVENT.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF YOU TEASING GIRLS AT PRESCHOOL, HAMMIE.
WHY NOT?
WELL, BECAUSE IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A VERY NICE THING TO DO.
OH.
HOW DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD FEEL IF SOMEONE TEASED YOU?
NORMAL.
♪ NYEH! NYEH! NYEH! HAMMIE'S IN TROUBLE! ♪

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jane Pauley, Dan Rather, Deidre Hall, Stephen Rea, Piper Perabo, Dermot Mulroney, Ken Wahl

Happy Birthday: The year ahead promises new beginnings, friendships and relationships. Your forceful nature in a leadership position will result in popularity and admiration. Your numbers: 12, 27, 29, 32, 34, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Avoid offering your true opinions today. Opposing a co-worker's or employer's ideas will lead to difficulties. Minor accidents or poor health will be the result of taking on too much.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be patient and tolerant, avoiding topics that lead to discord. You know in your own heart what is true, so let others have their own opinions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Relationships will develop if you're involved in organizational events or enroll in seminars. Visitors may cramp your style, so don't extend the invitation. Look at long-term investments.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll regret a hasty decision. Don't jump to any conclusions. Someone may try to make you angry, but don't fall into the trap. Keep a clear mind and a calm attitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be striving for mental and physical perfection in the activities you enjoy. Your determination will impress others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can't believe everything you hear today. Someone may not be telling you the whole truth about a financial situation. Examine the facts before deciding to contribute.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's time to give your home a face-lift. Your environment affects your emotional attitude, although your ideas of comfort may not be the same as your mate's. Try to compromise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do your best and avoid futile competition. You may have a problem with a co-worker who wants to outshine you or steal your ideas before you're ready to present them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A youngster may cause problems. Take him or her aside and find out what the problem is. Don't spend too much on entertainment, trying to buy friendship.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep a low profile at home. You'll face opposition if you push some of your ideas on friends or family. Your own behavior has probably been questionable lately. Let others do as they please.

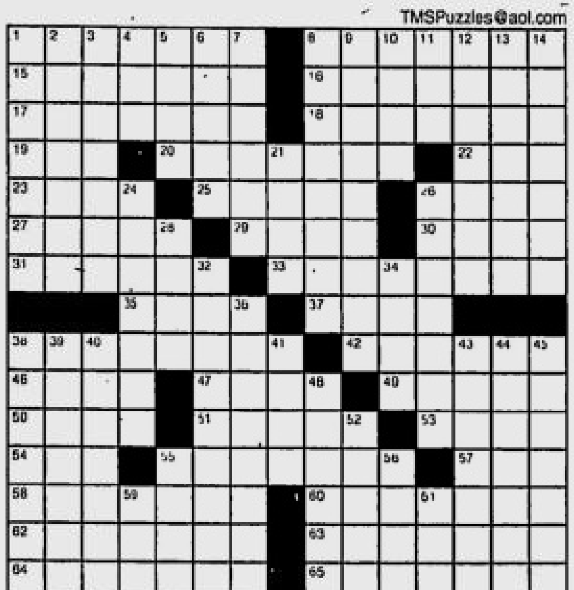
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will meet new friends or a prospective lover through relatives or seminars. You can make several changes in your life that will boost your self-esteem.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't make impulsive purchases, or spend on others. You'll regret your imprudence when the bills roll in. Leave the luxury items for a time when you have extra cash.

Birthday Baby: You have a strong desire to do what's right. As a tough competitor, you will always stand up for your rights and your beliefs. You're compassionate, loyal and loving.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Arlan and Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL
9/15/01

ACROSS
- 1 Stabilizing weight
- 8 Most desirable
- 15 In theory
- 16 Virtuosity
- 17 Burger topper, perhaps
- 18 Union renouncer
- 19 Bow wood
- 20 Do away with
- 22 Monopolize
- 23 Study intensively
- 25 Derisive
- 26 Function
- 27 Jim Croce song, "Bad, Bad __ Brown"
- 29 Lamb's pen name
- 30 Alternatives to lagers
- 31 Swirls
- 33 Superlatively savory
- 35 Fifth Avenue store
- 37 Norse goddess of fate
- 38 Dante's inspiration
- 42 Interstellar cloud
- 46 To be: Lat.
- 47 Director Ephron
- 49 Oxen gear
- 50 Baseball great Musial
- 51 Griffin or Irene
- 53 Swaddle
- 54 Apiece
- 55 Chart-topper
- 57 Communal cuckoo
- 58 Hard to catch
- 60 More substantial
- 62 In every location
- 63 Gargantuan
- 64 What finders are
- 65 Grommets

DOWN
- 1 Daisy transport?
- 2 Bonded
- 3 __ Islands of the Lesser Antilles
- 4 Youth
- 5 Director/star of "The Four Seasons"
- 6 Substantial pieces
- 7 Actor Power
- 8 Volcanic glass
- 9 Time for exhibition contests
- 10 Dashboard gauge, briefly
- 11 "__ Got a Secret"
- 12 Wallow
- 13 Iris rings
- 14 Most substantial
- 21 Spirited tune
- 24 Dampen
- 26 Colorful arc
- 28 Birthdays' separation
- 32 Person with flippers
- 34 Lowly card
- 36 Talent recruiters
- 38 Indicate
- 39 Getty or Parsons
- 40 Usually
- 41 Sea fliers
- 43 Kiev's country
- 44 Most spare
- 45 Strives toward
- 48 Personal instability
- 52 Them, to us?
- 55 Abode of buzzers
- 56 Up for it
- 59 Concession
- 61 __ Aviv-Jaffa

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	A	P	I	D	■	C	R	O	C	■	P	S	S	T
C	R	E	D	O	■	L	A	M	A	■	R	E	L	Y
A	D	J	E	C	T	I	V	E	S	■	O	M	A	N
L	O	O	S	■	O	V	E	R	A	C	T	I	V	E
E	R	R	■	A	G	E	■	■	N	A	E	■	■	■
■	■	A	R	I	A	■	E	X	O	R	C	I	S	E
C	I	T	E	D	■	A	V	I	V	■	T	R	O	D
A	R	I	D	■	A	G	E	N	A	■	I	R	O	N
N	A	V	E	■	B	E	R	G	■	E	V	I	T	A
A	N	E	M	O	N	E	S	■	F	E	E	T	■	■
■	■	■	P	R	O	■	■	I	R	E	■	A	C	E
C	O	N	T	O	R	T	I	V	E	■	S	T	O	W
A	L	A	I	■	M	E	D	I	T	A	T	I	V	E
D	L	I	V	■	A	L	E	E	■	P	A	V	E	R
S	A	L	E	■	L	E	A	S	■	T	R	E	Y	S

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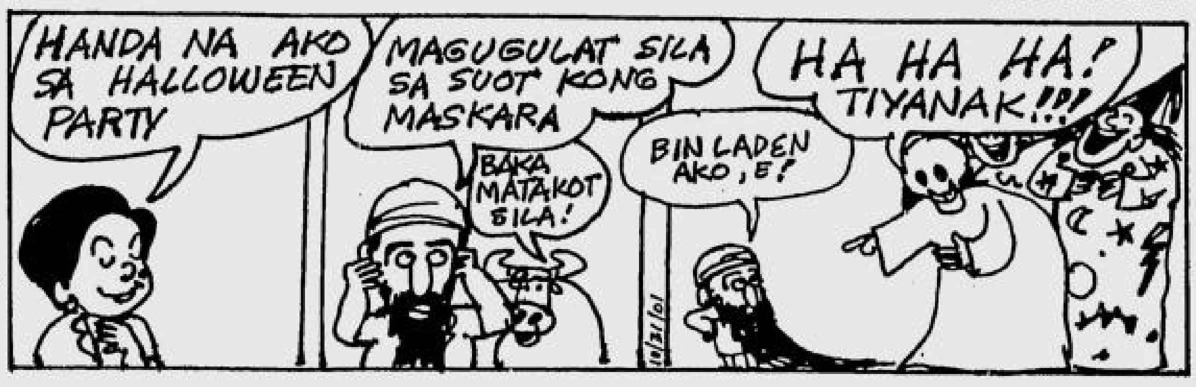
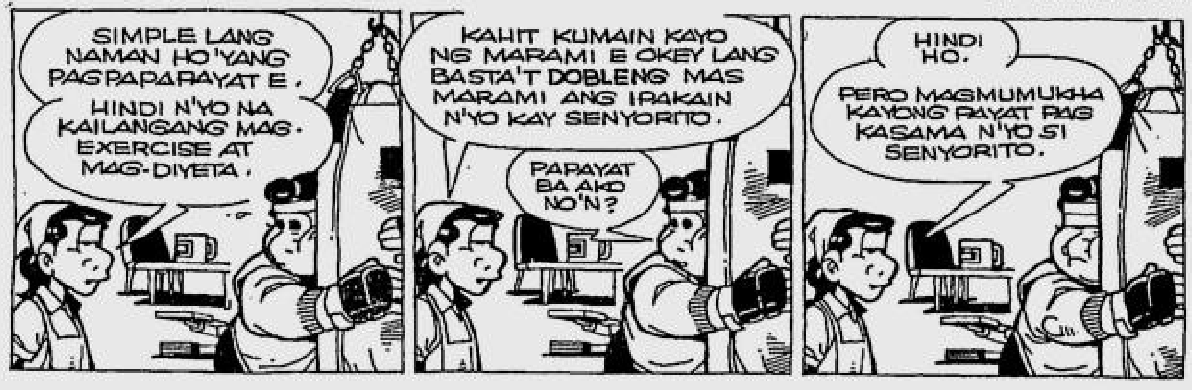
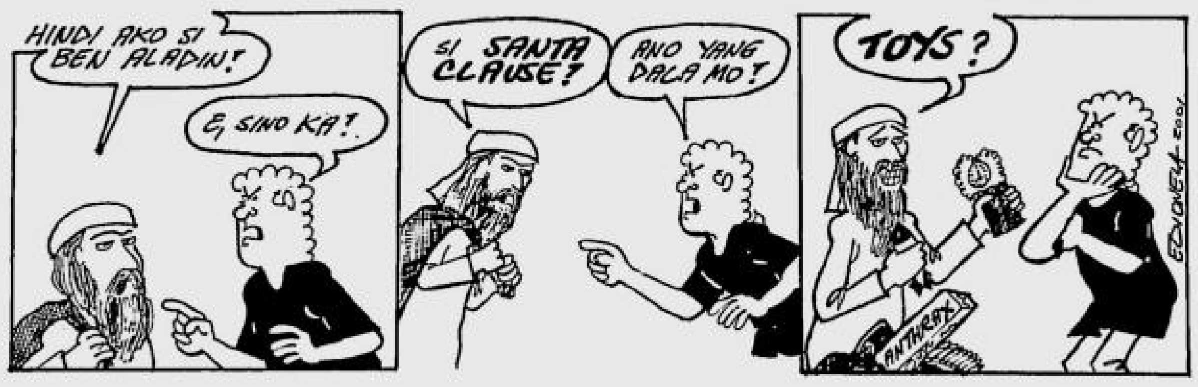
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HANDA NA AKO SA HALLOWEEN PARTY
MAGUGULAT SILA SA SUOT KONG MASKARA
BAKA MATAKOT SILA!
BIN LADEN AKO, E!
HA HA HA! TIYANAK!!!
10/31/01

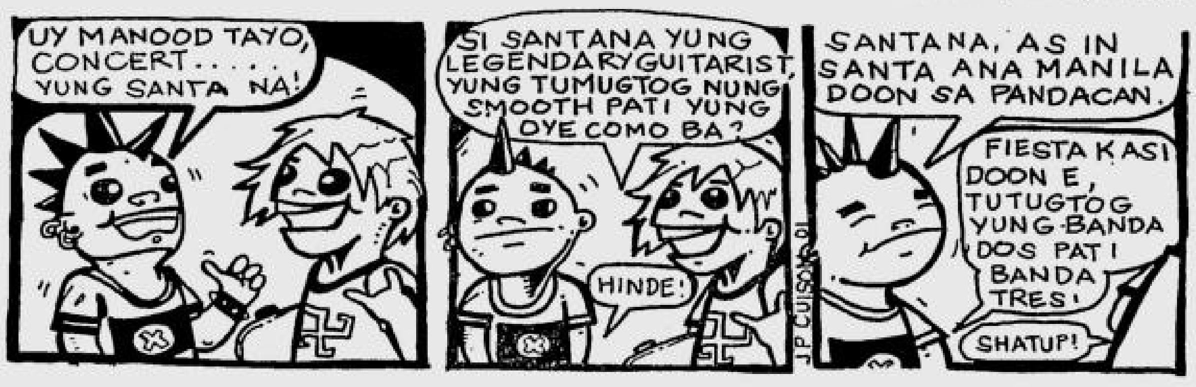
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SIMPLE LANG NAMAN HO 'YANG PAGPAPAPAYAT E.
HINDI N'YO NA KAILANGANG MAG-EXERCISE AT MAG-DIYETA.
KAHIT KUMAIN KAYO NG MARAMI E OKEY LANG BASTA'T DOBLENG MAS MARAMI ANG IPAKAIN N'YO KAY SENYORITO.
PAPAYAT BA AKO NO'N?
HINDI HO.
PERO MAGMUMUKHA KAYONG PAYAT PAG KASAMA N'YO SI SENYORITO.

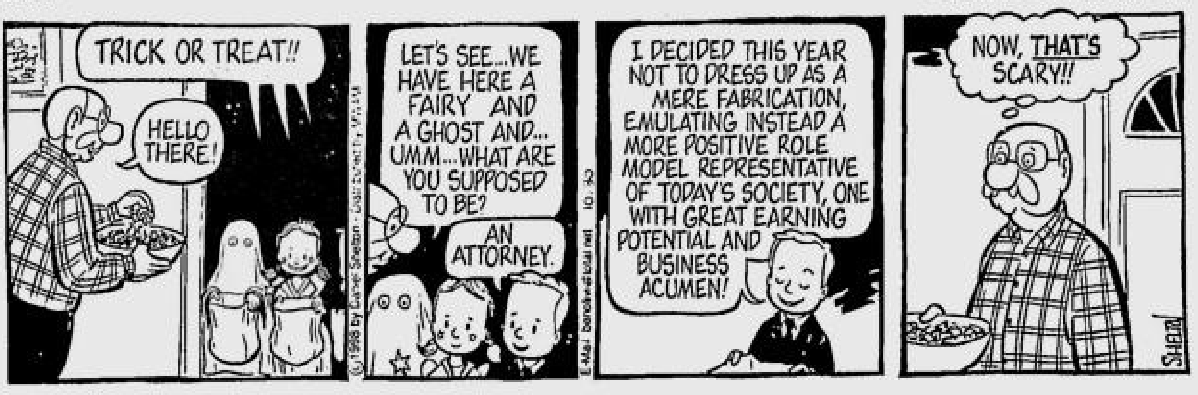
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


HINDI AKO SI BEN ALADIN!
E, SINO KA?
SI SANTA CLAUSE?
ANO YANG DALA MO?
TOYS?
ANTHRAX
EDIONELA 2001

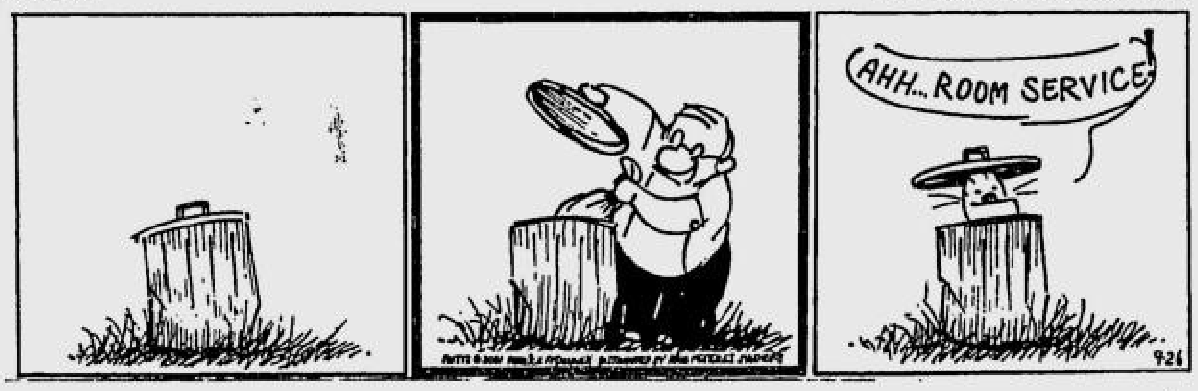
GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


UY MANOOD TAYO, CONCERT..... YUNG SANTA NA!
SI SANTANA YUNG LEGENDARY GUITARIST, YUNG TUMUTUGTOG NUNG SMOOTH PATI YUNG OYE COMO BA?
HINDE!
SANTANA, AS IN SANTA ANA MANILA DOON SA PANDACAN.
FIESTA KASI DOON E, TUTUGTOG YUNG BANDA DOS PATI BANDA TRES!
SHATUP!
J.P. CUISON 01

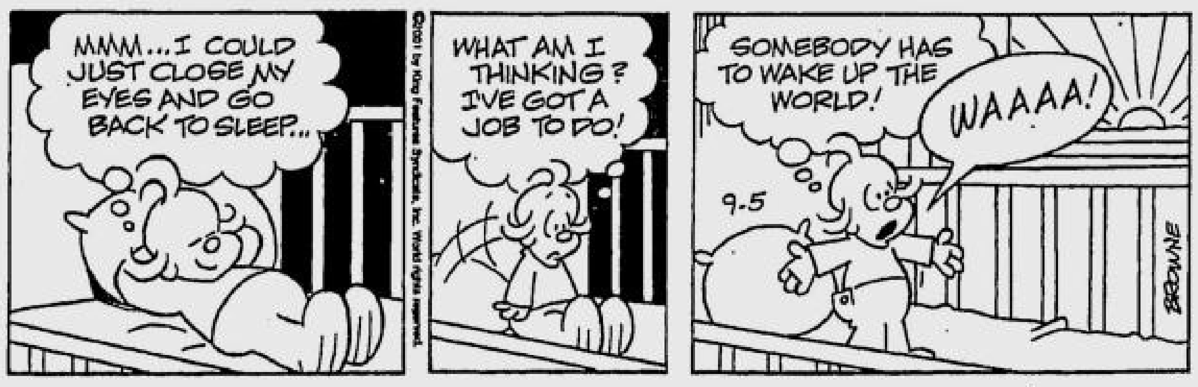
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


TRICK OR TREAT!!
HELLO THERE!
LET'S SEE...WE HAVE HERE A FAIRY AND A GHOST AND... UMM...WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
AN ATTORNEY.
I DECIDED THIS YEAR NOT TO DRESS UP AS A MERE FABRICATION, EMULATING INSTEAD A MORE POSITIVE ROLE MODEL REPRESENTATIVE OF TODAY'S SOCIETY, ONE WITH GREAT EARNING POTENTIAL AND BUSINESS ACUMEN!
NOW, THAT'S SCARY!!
SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


AHH... ROOM SERVICE
9-26

HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


MMM... I COULD JUST CLOSE MY EYES AND GO BACK TO SLEEP...
WHAT AM I THINKING? I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO!
SOMEBODY HAS TO WAKE UP THE WORLD!
WAAAA!
9-5
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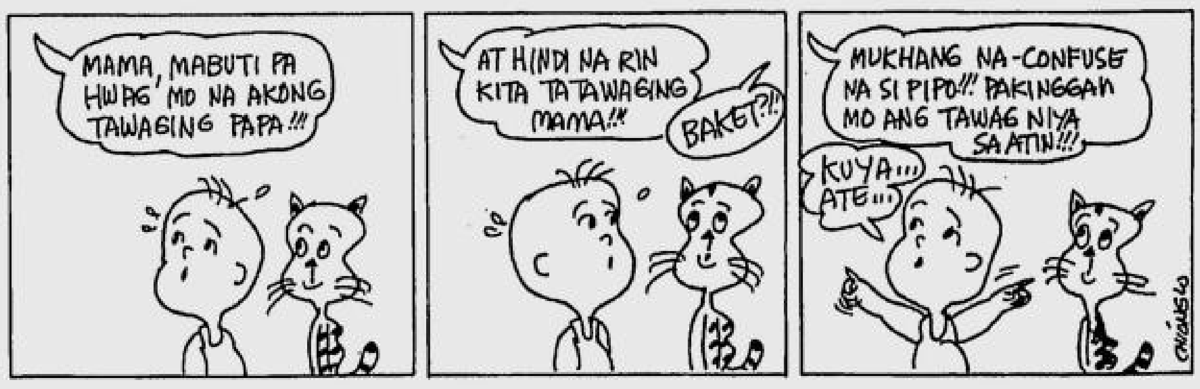
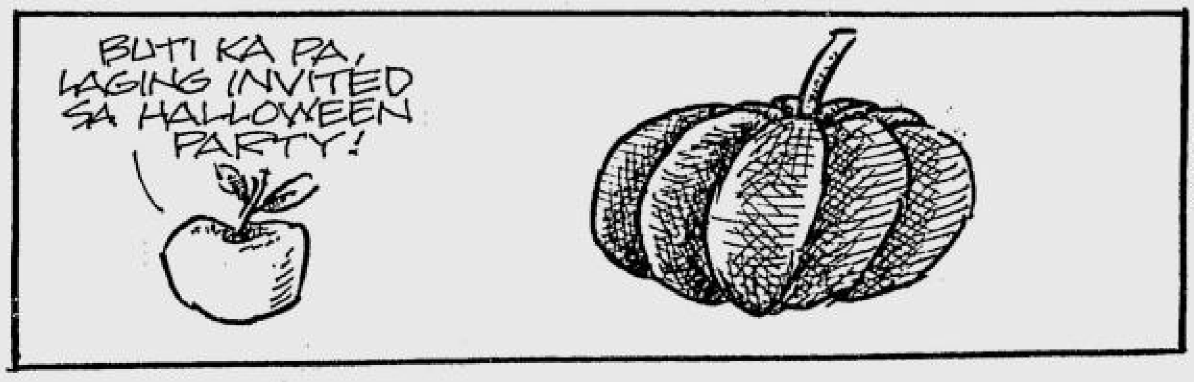
BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAMA, MABUTI PA HWAG MO NA AKONG TAWAGING PAPA!!!
AT HINDI NA RIN KITA TATAWAGING MAMA!!
BAKET?!!
MUKHANG NA-CONFUSE NA SI PIPO!!! PAKINGGAN MO ANG TAWAG NIYA SA ATIN!!!
KUYA...!
ATE...!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BUTI KA PA, LAGING INVITED SA HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Campus horror stories—literally

BY CHRISTIAN B. BAUTISTA
2bU! Correspondent, University of Santo Tomas

CREEPY accounts of ghosts and spirits have haunted the country's top college campuses for ages. For every walkway and building is a tale of disturbed ghouls and ghosts ready to knock the socks off unsuspecting students. Which is sort of funny considering the country's next batch of leaders or line of corporate big shots still believe in ghosts. Most of these stories have been handed down from batch to batch, uttered with reverence as if reciting the Scriptures. And despite technological advances, campus ghost stories have endured and evolved to make life a tad more interesting within the four corners of the school.

Their authenticity, to say the least, is suspect. Whether these are true or not, we'll probably never know. None of the storytellers seem to have firsthand knowledge of the accounts. More often than not, the stories come from a friend's friend or some stranger with an interesting story to tell. And as with any tale that travels by word of mouth, the story gets altered every time it is repeated. Nevertheless, the place of these stories in campuses has become entrenched. They thrive among huddled students listening in earnest because they have nothing better to do.

Lady in the mirror

Since it is the oldest university in Asia (400 years old!), the University of Santo Tomas does not exactly suffer from a dearth of ghost stories. Here, there's a story about a female student who at a very late hour went to one of the first-floor bathrooms of UST's Main Building, that ancient massive building you see in the middle of the campus.

The student washed her face and as she looked up to the mirror, she saw the dark figure of a lady, and gasped. No one was in the room except her. Thinking a little divine intervention would help, the girl started praying the Lord's Prayer.

But midway through the prayer, she stopped. It seemed that somebody was praying with her, repeating the syllables of the prayer like an echo. When she looked at the mirror, she found that the black lady was still there, praying with her.

Demon

A similar story is going the rounds of the Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines. It is said that a male student went to one of the comfort rooms inside Palma Hall. Usually, bathrooms in Palma Hall have a rest area with benches that face a mirror. The student, who probably came too early for his class, sat on one of the benches and read up on the day's topics.

After a while, the student fell asleep, still facing the mirror. After a few minutes, he woke up, gazed at the mirror, and was petrified. In his reflection in the mirror, a demon sat next to him. But when he looked beside him, he found nothing.

Scared out of his wits, the student closed his eyes and started praying the Lord's Prayer. "Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name…" He was interrupted in mid-prayer when something touched his forehead.

When he opened his eyes, he saw the demon. And this time, it wasn't just in the mirror. The being was now sitting beside him, pointing a finger on his forehead. Then, the demon started doing something unheard of. Looking menacingly, the being started to mimic the student. It chanted, "Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name…"

Irregular student

A most interesting ghost incident took place at the College of St. Benilde. Many of the people who swear the incident really happened are still in the school.

It all started when a certain marketing class started a new semester. Since CSB has block sections, everybody in the room already knew each other. But on this first meeting in the new semester, the whole class noticed a new girl who sat in the back rows. The girl looked weird. Every piece of her clothing was black. Thinking she was just another irregular student, the classmates dismissed her and just went on with their work.

After two weeks of sitting silently in the back of the class, the professor finally spotted her and shot a question. With this, the girl stood up and slowly walked toward the front of the class. Thinking the girl had a long recitation in mind, nobody in the class found what she did unusual.

But as she got near the front of the class, she started going through the class—literally going through the students like they weren't there.

And when she got to the podium, she went through the professor. She did this in plain sight of every student in the room. Then she went through the white board behind the professor and vanished.

Curtain call

In the middle of a UP Repertory theater production at the Wilfrido Maria Guerrero Theater, a girl in tattered clothes suddenly went on stage and started weeping. The girl talked of heartbreak and sadness, which were not exactly parts of the play's plot.

But the crowd didn't care. The girl gave such a bravura performance that she was sent off with an ovation.

The strange thing is, nobody in the play's cast knew the girl. And nobody knew how she got on stage. And at the end of the performance, it was announced that the girl's part was not in the original story.

A janitor later recognized the girl as someone who killed herself in the theater years ago.

The cavernous halls and abandoned corners of the country's top universities abound with ghosts—or at least stories of them

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Halloween masquerade ball

SARI-SARI Store, with Metro Magazine, holds a post-Halloween ball on Nov. 3, 9 p.m., at Hutu's Hut Restaurant & Bar on Kalayaan Avenue, Makati.

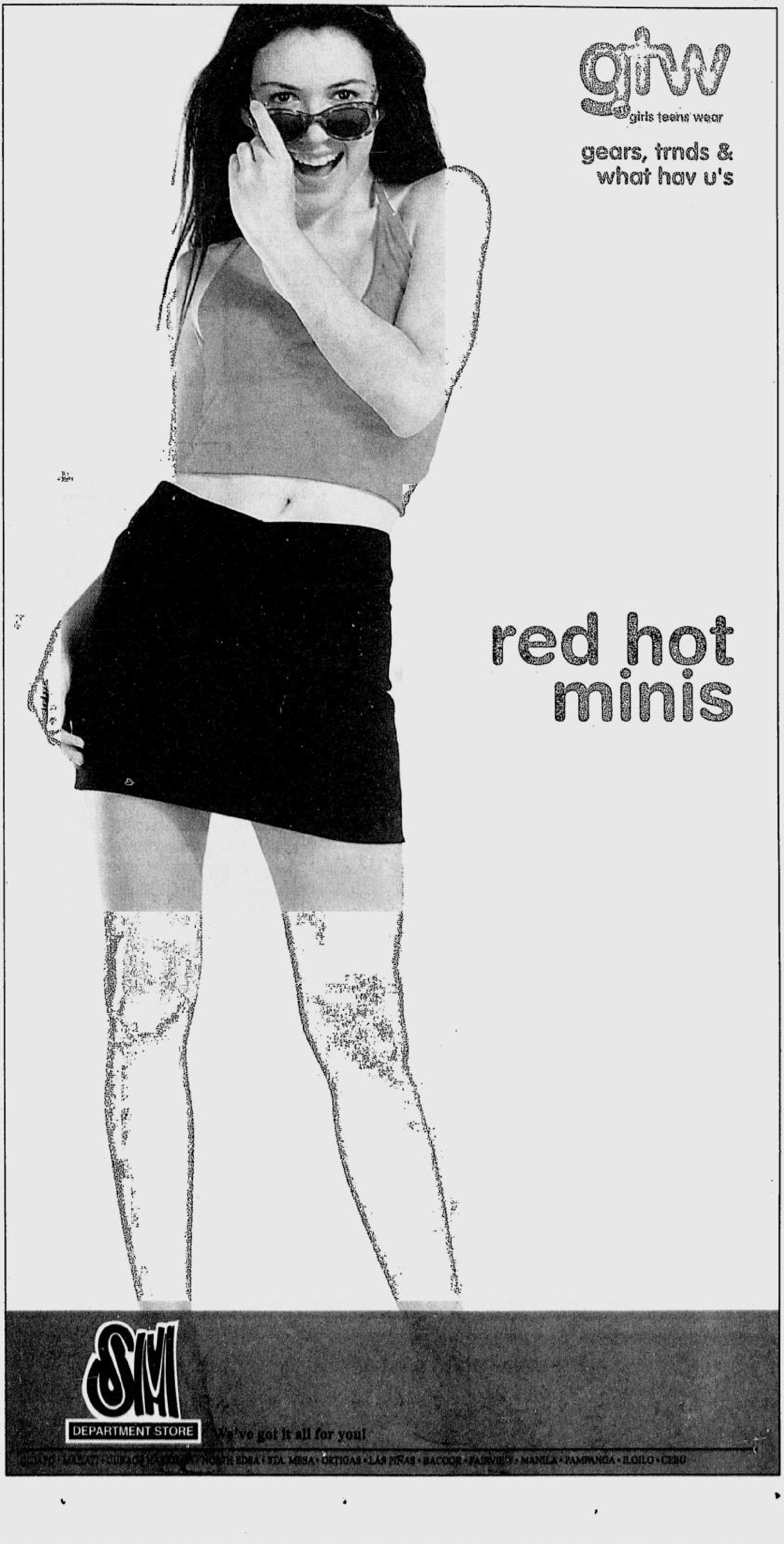
The masquerade ball will be eerie-chic and all black glam, with the guests and models in all-black attires and the place decked out in velvet and satin drapes, with mist and fog swirling on the floor amid soft-lit candles. The men will come in tux and the women in seductive black, but everyone will be in a mask. It's a no-mask-no entry ball.

The event is inspired by the movie "Eyes Wide Shut."

The Dawn will perform, and there will be a DJ showdown during the party.

Leading fashion models and lifestyle movers and shakers will don attires in a cast composed of Lady Executioner, Medusa, She-Devil, Cat Woman, Morticia D' Witch and Lady Vampire. The event is called "Assault Your Senses."

Also supporting the event are 99.5 RT, Ohrelle, Chivas Regal, Tequila Rose, Absolute and Lipton Ice Tea.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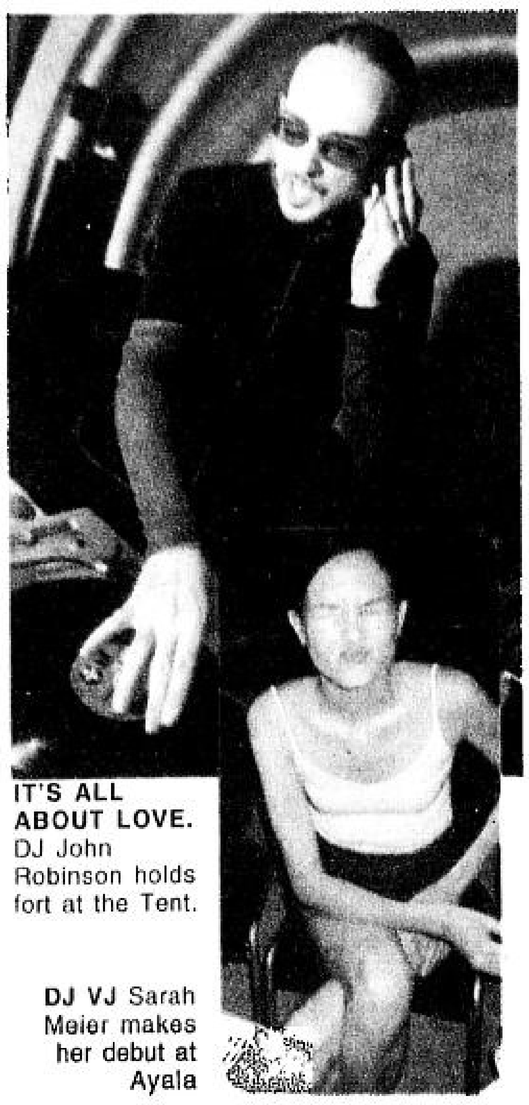
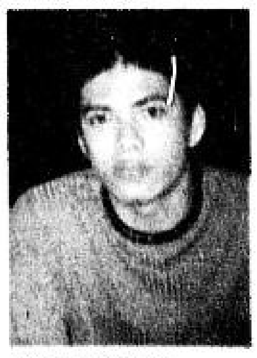


IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE. DJ John Robinson holds fort at the Tent.

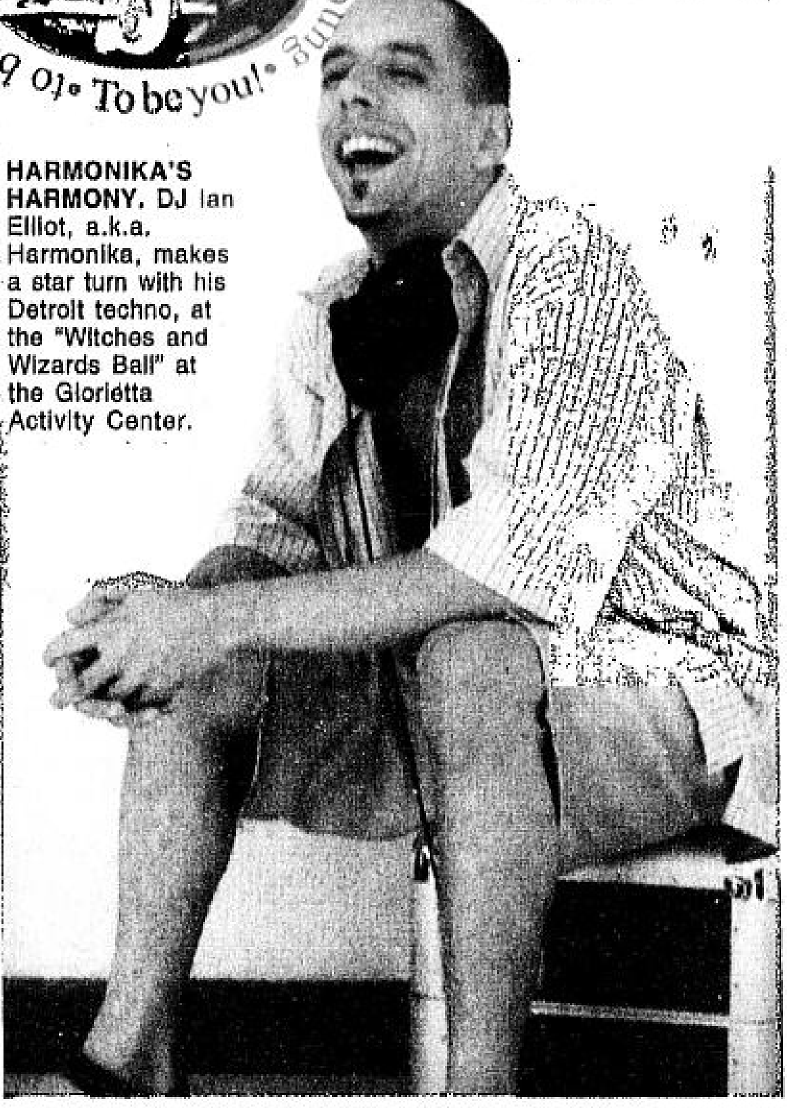
DJ VJ Sarah Meier makes her debut at Ayala



DJ MUSCLE. Robby Mananquil spins at Ayala

SIBLING REVELRY for Manolet and Teddy Dario at 78 Ornage

ABG'S MAGIC. Erwin Edralin turns the Glorietta tables with his music.



HARMONIKA'S HARMONY. DJ Ian Elliot, a.k.a. Harmonika, makes a star turn with his Detroit techno, at the "Witches and Wizards Ball" at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Halloween hip-hopping

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

ALL dressed up—in costume at that—and nowhere to go? Well, this Halloween—that's tonight ladies and gentlemen—the hip parade stretches from all corners, with a DJ showdown, "ab fab" costume contests, a book launch, concerts and a street party all in the city's nightworld diary this eerie-creepy time of the year!

Other revelers have even set up a convoy and a bus ride, open to all, so just hop in and hop out as you feel like it. The Absolut trip people, led by scene mover Erich Edralin, meet up at ABG's as early as 7 p.m. to dress up, pamper up and rev up for the night's pulsating activities.

First stop on their agenda—Ayala's "Witches and Wizards Ball" at the Glorietta Center, 9 p.m. where a costume parade will take place—Milkwear designers spruce up the scene's hipsters in a lush opulent setting reminiscent of Sleepy Hollow meets Hogwarts courtyard. You wouldn't want to miss the Warp fashion show, where the hip and the hot—Epi Quizon, Mylene Dizon, Robin da Roza and top models—share stellar billing. MTV hosts KC and Belinda keep you up all night.

Spinning magic on the turntables would be MTV VJ Sarah Meier, model and hearthrob Derek Ramsey, Robby Mananquil, style file Joel Tantoco and DJ Erwin Edralin. Highlight is the Detroit techno specialist DJ Harmonika.

Harmonika who? For the past three decades, DJ Harmonika (a.k.a Ian Elliot) has been blowing away dancefloors across Canada and the US. He was here once to play at a millennium gig for Groov[illegible] Nation in Boracay, and he played along Roger Sanchez when DJ Sanchez stopped by Manila some seasons back. The three-turntable maestro cuts and slices a speaker-shaking blend of techno, house, electro and all flavors in between. With his recently formed Blu[illegible]works record label, he has now set his sights on nothing short of world domination. Mwah-hahahaah!

Aside from this, the coven of witches gathers at midnight, where the winner for the costume contest will be chosen—with two trips to Paris at stake for the lucky characters who will make the best costumed entrance, plus top-of-the-line Globe cell phones, the event's major sponsor. Remember—be in costume. The ones who are not will pay a high price for disobedience. GenTexters get special treats at the gate... or trick

BEAC[illegible] BUDDIES. David Jacob spins at Orange and M[illegible]V's DJ Mumph holds [illegible]urt at the Ayala Center.

Dance the whole night [illegible]vay or jump to the other parties—the night is still you[illegible] and the revelry endless.

Get up anc[illegible] lance

Worth checking out is the [illegible] by NBC and Joey 92.3 event at The Tent, the "To[illegible] Down" of Planet Love, which promises to showcase our generation's brand of clubbing, music and lifestyle. With DJ John Robinson as head music meister, Japan's most popular club comes to Manila. At stake is a trip to Tokyo, which will go to the best in costume! Local flavor comes with DJ Bobet Villaluz, a scene favorite and party mover.

NBK brings Simon Blackjack as he comes to 78 Orange, playing alongside DJ David Jacob, Manolet Dario and Nicky Jurado—a "Madhatter's Halloween" party is the theme at this Makati Avenue dance club. On the other side of the fence, Po Na Na at Libis turns into Sleepy Hollow as in-house DJs take turns on the tables.

On the Malate side of the strip, Larry J. Cruz and company launch their book, named after the original bohemian strip, as a street party unfolds in the evening at Havana!

So, get yourself ready [illegible]ostumes, coven and creepy creatures—ready, get [illegible] go!

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LIFESTYLE

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Spirit questing without the frills

By Eloisa San Juan

GHOSTBUSTERS. That always comes to mind when we describe to people who we are and what we do. We can't blame them. We didn't plan it to be so, but: "If there's something strange, in your neighborhood, who're you gonna call...?" Well, oftentimes—us, the spirit questors. There are huge differences though. And they don't end with the proton packs.

> I'm a spirit questor. Yes, we deal with spirits and extraordinary phenomena. No, we're not crazy

SPIRIT/ p.D2

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Spirit questing without the frills

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

(From page D1)

First, we don't go around introducing ourselves as "spirit questors" the way a lawyer or a doctor would introduce himself/herself. It just happens to be the name we people who do "spirit questing" have come to be called. Spirit questing is a voluntary service we offer to anyone for free. It's not our work. We're like volunteer firemen. We come to someone's house to help only when we're called. Instead of putting out fire, we try to put out fear, confusion, anger and hurt. But don't get us wrong. We do not claim to be miracle workers. We just give people another way they can try in dealing with problems caused by things that cannot be explained.

Exactly what's this unexplainable stuff? I won't beat around the bush. Whether you believe it or not, we *do* deal with ghosts and dwarves and fairies and the like, *but only* when there is a complaint. And, we don't go to a place just because there seems to be unseen things running around the house. We only go somewhere when these are already causing harm.

More often than not, most of the issues are just caused by misunderstandings. Most of the cases we handled go something like this: the people we're helping are not aware they have unseen neighbors, a dwarf, for example. And the dwarf does not know his human neighbors can't see him. They would get on each other's way without intending to. The little guy would then feel so ignored and irritated he'd start kicking the big guy's heels just to get noticed. And the big guy, not being able to see what's kicking him, would start to feel afraid and panicky. He doesn't get a good night's sleep and becomes too jumpy. So he calls us.

Unlike the "Ghostbusters," we don't go to a house prepared to blast away anything strange that moves. What we try to do is bring the *neighbors* together—the human occupant and the unseen resident/s. Then we open talks between them. Here's where our specialty helps a lot. Since we can see and hear the unseen beings, we can help them talk to each other to know exactly what the other guy's thinking and feeling. We also serve as mediators, especially when they're angry at each other. We stay in the middle so they won't lunge at each other before hearing each other's side.

Arbitration

It's comparable to labor arbitration for a collective bargaining agreement, if you think about it. We help in the process of negotiation and arriving at a win-win situation. The understanding we always try to reach is that each one has a right to be there and that there is a way to peacefully coexist. After all, what we humans don't usually realize or recognize is the fact that these unseen beings have preexisted and lived in our lands hundreds of years before we were even born! Since our advent, they have been patiently trying to make do with the little space we spare them. Driving them away is not a very good option.

After a while, and a lot of talking, both parties will begin to calm down. They start to see each other's point of view and they start to understand what they did wrong. Then we tell them how they can help each other. They usually like this part, learning that they can actually benefit from each other. We finish off by reminding them of what they agreed on and teaching them how to know what the other's trying to say even without our help.

But, of course, it's not always like this. No two Spirit Quest cases are ever the same. We encounter different kinds of spirits aside from dwarves. Oftentimes, even the spirits of people who died from untimely and/or violent deaths also cross our paths. There will be nights when the issues are so boring you could fall asleep while questing. There are times when the case is too scary you can't sleep afterward. Talks can be short. Sometimes they last forever!

Why do we bother? We have been meeting every Saturday for five years or so and, come rain or shine, gone to places we've never been before, and spent at least four hours there to help people who can either be nice or obnoxious. Most of the time we even have to go home past 12 midnight!

We bother because we like what we do. We like helping people. It gives us pleasure to help them see a way of handling their predicament. And we also like being with people who can feel the spirits like us, and therefore understand us. The opportunity to practice our psychic muscles so they become more refined is also another plus.

Abilities

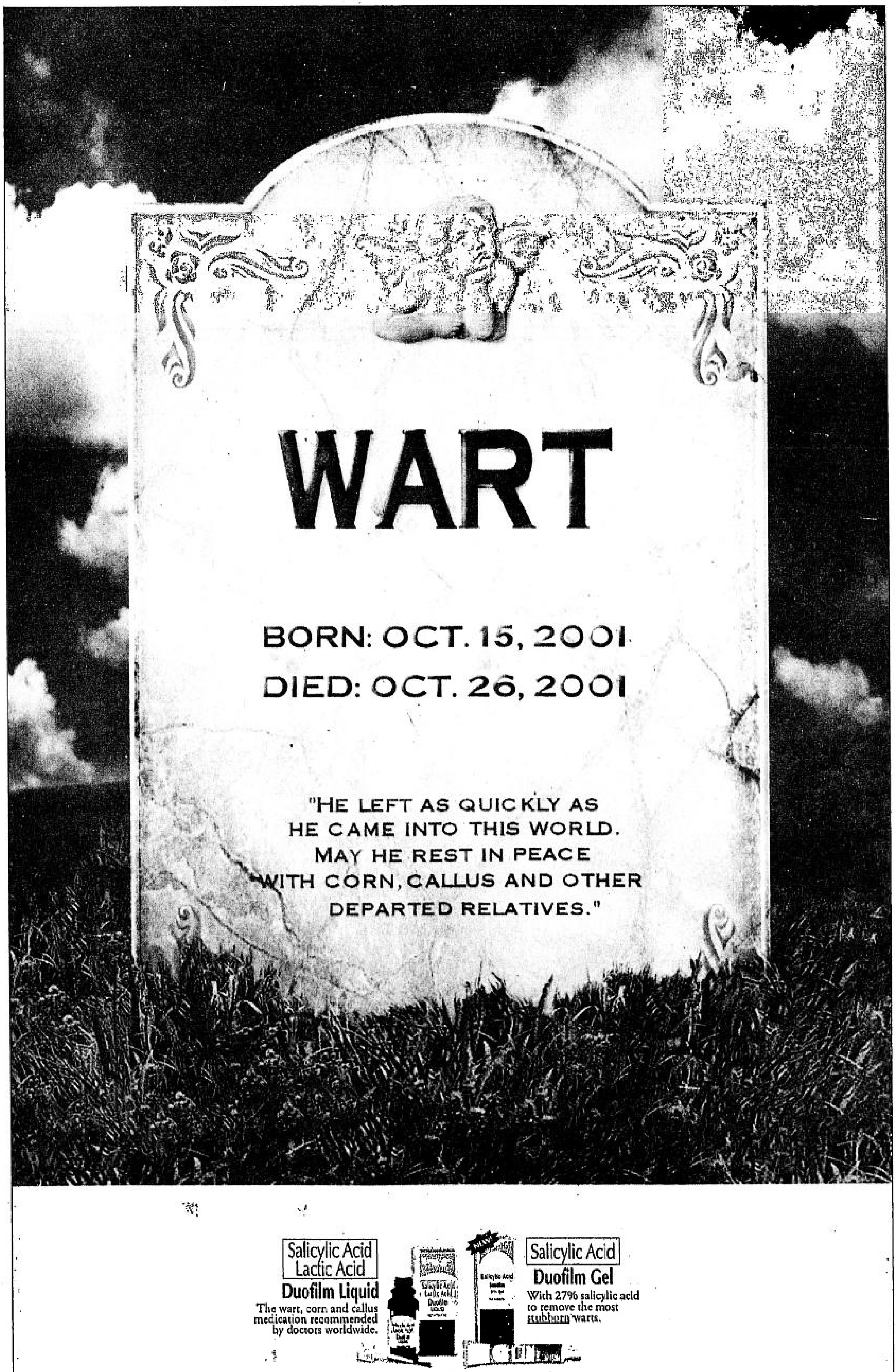
Here's a secret. Everyone has psychic abilities. Even you. It's a talent, like piano playing. All humans have it, but some are better at it than others; others can practice it to get better, and still others just don't bother. But it's there. And, oh, one last thing about psychic abilities, usually movies portray psychics as just the people who can see into the future, see dead people or hear them. These are the "glamorous psychic abilities." Actually, there are different types of psychic abilities.

Did you know there are actually quirky psychic abilities like smell and taste? We actually have members who specialize here. Did you know that feeling how another person is feeling—angry, sad, happy, excited, etc.—is already a psychic ability? It's called empathy. And what they call gut feeling and mother's intuition are also psychic abilities. So, you see, most people have them and use them already. They're just not aware they're being "psychic."

As for me, I've been questing almost every Saturday for the past four years since I was 20. It doesn't give me a lot of time for leisure, but I like the weekly adventure. Anything can happen, no matter how long I've been doing it. Because of these, it's not just my psychic abilities that get better. My communication and teaching skills also get developed because I'm constantly talking and explaining things to people. I also get better at navigation (though my friends may not agree with this) because we rarely go to the same place twice. Every Saturday we discover new nooks and crannies around Manila we've never been before.

It also gives me a chance to be with a lot of different people and touch their lives, and be touched by them. Through what I do, I've met bankers, priests, security guards, wives, kids etc... The lives they lead and stories they have to tell are very interesting. This is one of the many pleasures of questing I've come to appreciate.

This is what spirit questing is all about. We channel the spirits to help people, but in the process, the people we help also help our spirits.



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DU-05-01-PH

It's the dear departed— not goblins— that matter to Pinoys

By Gabriel H. Mercado

WHAT is a typical guy's reaction to all this Halloween silliness? Not much really.

Some quick research shows the event was a tradition among the pagans who believed spirits visited their families. Candles were lit near windows to show the spirits the way. Children begged food from neighbors, which was eventually given to charity. The practices eventually evolved into the modern-day pumpkin and trick-or-treat during Halloween, a major holiday anticipated not just by kids but also businessmen.

Although many Pinoys have taken to celebrating Halloween much like the Americans, it is really Nov. 1, All Saints' Day—not Oct. 31—which is the big event here.

All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day are the days when Filipinos remember their loved ones, troop to the cemetery with candles, flowers and praying gear in tow, for what eventually turns out to be impromptu family reunions. After a while, mahjong tables are set up or poker sessions begin. Although the day is supposed to be for remembering the dead, the mood is light and often festive.

The gambling might seem inappropriate but, according to the players, it is for "the benefit" of the dear departed ones who seemed to have been gamblers before they passed on. By gambling, so the players would have you believe, they allow the dead to enjoy what they cannot possibly have "up there" (if that's where they are).

Unchanged

For 14 years, my Halloween remained pretty much the same. We sat on folding chairs around my Dad's grave, fanning ourselves, gossiping about other people in the cemetery. I would make balls of colored wax from the candles just as today's kids do.

As in the past, a visit to the cemetery these days still means adults discussing what is newsworthy. I have to explain what I am doing these days to whoever cares to ask. Come to think of it, I probably spend my time doing the same—asking those younger than me how they are doing. For me, these yearly visits are the closest I would ever get to a spiritual experience.

Unlike the "gifted" person you would occasionally meet at a party, read about in the newspapers or watch weave their magic on television, I have about as much mysticism in me as there are nutrients in chips. I do not have a "third eye." I cannot see into the future (I even have trouble trying to remember last week), I cannot read palms, speak in tongues, make things levitate or interpret dreams. Once, I dreamed I was being chased by ghosts and woke up with scratches on my leg. It turned out I forgot to close the windows and the mosquitoes made me slap my leg and scratch all night long.

As far as things spiritual, special or supernatural are concerned, my attitude is neither here nor there. I do not have an opinion and let things be. I have become comfortable with this.

Helping a friend

Recently, however, a good college friend died of a lingering illness. His girlfriend of six years, who was also a close friend, made me review my smug complacency. As I endeavored to help her cope with her loss, I had to question my beliefs in an effort to understand the situation. A person with whom I have more than a passing kinship with is in great pain and I am at a loss. It was something I was totally unprepared for and unfamiliar with and, although I had experienced the loss of someone much earlier in my life, I felt totally inadequate to help her understand hers.

She had questions that she wanted answered. Is his spirit close? Where is he? Does he dwell among us in some way? If he isn't here, where is he exactly? Does he understand what is going on? If he does, why does he not do something about her deep grief? Does he not see how much she is grieving? Does he remain the same person he was in life? If he is in some dreamlike floating state, as we are made to believe, does he lose all memory of the life he once lived?

Maybe the after life is totally different from what we know and believe. Perhaps death brings a person to an altogether alien state, a consciousness we humans cannot understand in our as yet limited scope and intelligence. Maybe in spite of ourselves, we watch too many movies but what Hollywood has taught us is not enough. We have imported beliefs that just do not work when the proverbial reality comes to bear.

I watched my friend suffer and tried to find answers, but I can only do so much. It has been a while since her boyfriend died. I saw her go through various phases—from being relaxed with her friends to bitterness and anger at those who wronged him when he was still around and, of course, the deep heart-rending sadness I know she feels when she is alone.

Healing begins

But I had also seen an improvement. I do not think this is a conscious decision. Despite her misery, she is still around and, although she says she does not think she will ever make it, I know she will. The wound remains deep and continues to hurt, but the edges have started to heal. It will likely leave an ugly scar that will occasionally tear and start hurting again. But the bleeding will stop soon. You cannot stop yourself from healing.

Ultimately, I realize it is up to us to decide what we should do with ourselves. If people want to believe clouds shape themselves to look like their loved ones, grinning and holding a thumbs up sign, then let them. If they find comfort in palm readers at the mall or give their credit card numbers to televangelists, it is up to them. Sometimes they end up suffering more pain, but the point is they are trying and they will continue to do so whatever anyone says. Such is our spirit. It will not allow us to falter. It will give us reason to go on.

On a Monday last September, as I worked on my PC, I felt a breeze touch the back of my hand. It made the hair on my nape stand. I caught myself wondering what was going on. I looked outside and the trees were still. I then smelled flowers, *sampaguita*, maybe, or something else. My room smelled very nice and quiet all of a sudden. It also felt like I was not alone. I stood up and looked out the window. The sun was shining. I felt overwhelming peace. I felt happy. I also felt like someone was telling me something, and I seemed to understand.

A day later, I received a text from a friend, telling me our mutual friend Dennis passed away that evening. I do not know if spirits can read, *pero pare*, if you can, I want you to know Candy's going to be fine. Thanks for all those years. Thanks for being my friend. Thanks for saying goodbye.

E-mail the author at freeurmnd@hotmail.com

2BU! RECOMMENDS

Scary Halloween for a penny

UNLIKE Christmas, Halloween is one holiday when you can be almost penniless and still be completely happy (or spooked, for that matter). 2bU! gives you a list of things you can do on that creepy, goosebumps-inducing night—especially if you're short on moolah.

Have a street party on Balete Drive. Gather a bunch of your friends and head off to one of the scariest places in Manila. Go ghost-hunting and try to scare the wits out of each other. Walk around and try to figure out which houses are haunted and not.

Private screening at the Film Center. Bring along your portable TV, VCD player and a stack of your favorite scary movies. Add a bag of popcorn or two, cans of soda (or beer), your bunch of friends and you're all set. Part of the fun would be trying to escape the guards and security people who want to chase you off the area.

> You can have a horror joy ride for a breeze if you're imaginative enough

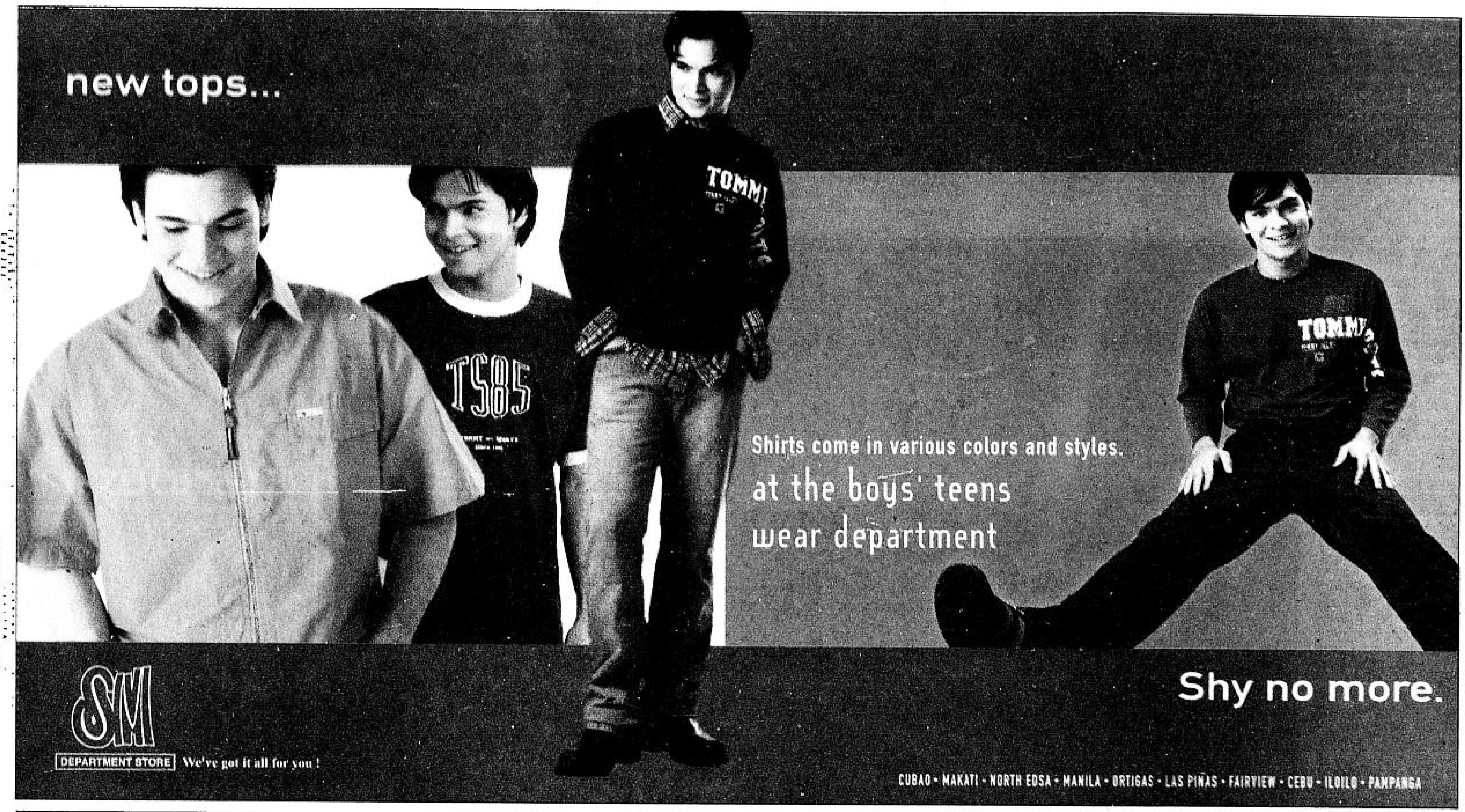
Invade a *manananggal*-infested province. Drive, commute or fly to the nearest spooky town and have the adventure of your life. Just remember, constant head count is essential.

Shop in Quiapo. Buy love potions from the *manangs* on the sidewalks and give them to friends. Haggle to death.

Haunted house-hopping. Go on a tour of the rumored haunted houses in the city. Tell stories and dare the brave to ring the doorbells. Beware of angry house owners though.

Picnic at the park. Memorial park, rather. Prepare food and head off to the nearest cemetery. Don't make too much noise, though. You wouldn't want to wake the dead up. Then again, this is one activity you can postpone until after Halloween. Most cemeteries will be swarming with people today, eve of All Saint's Day (understatement of the century).

Dress up and party. Be creative—raid your house for possible costume ideas. Use cling wrap if you're desperate. Then go out and jump from one hot Halloween party to another. Most parties are free when you come in costume. Don't you dare skip the 2bU!-sponsored "Witches and Wizards Ball" at the Glorietta Activity Center at midnight today.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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1391 Series of 2001

Believe it or not, my 'yaya' could shame Stephen King

By Raya Lopez Martin
2bU! Correspondent, University of the Philippines College-Baguio

IT never fails, this session of scary storytelling, anytime, anywhere. It works for me and my seatmate during PE class when we're too bored to care. Or with my buddies when we go around town on a hot Tuesday afternoon. Anybody can tell a scary story, one way or another. Everyone becomes clever and imaginative: a motionless stuffed cat becomes a day-stalker while hushed school halls turn into murder spots. But then a few stand out from the crowd. Those brave souls gifted with sensitive spirits and horrible experiences. Those who see the fictional terror of life rather than their own true horror stories. Little Raya didn't realize it back then, but her *yaya* was the horrormeister. All *yayas* are.

> She didn't only tell me the stories that taught me the powers of the imagination, she also sacrificed a great part of her life raising a stuck-up spoiled brat like me

Act 1: The characters are my *yaya*'s sister, her mother, a pair of scissors and the annoying *aswang*.

"Unlike your windows," *yaya* started to tell her story, "ours didn't have a screen. It was a simple hatch, which was held by a wooden stick during the day. It was pitch black during the night. We didn't have electricity back then in Antique (they were five hours away from the city)," she continued. Lucky *aswang*, her sister was pregnant. I knew her kids, so I was relieved that she survived this incident. But my heart was pounding. It was nothing, the sound of a winged creature flying around their houses. That was normal to them, but not the rustling of the *sawali* roof. The sound slowly crept toward the edge, nearing their window.

"At the time, my sister was in deep slumber, but our mother (like all mothers, she was very sensitive) awoke. She struggled to walk, like walking with the creature toward the window, feeling her way through the darkness of the house. My mother, being wise, tried to grab a pair of scissors in a cabinet somewhere along the way. She was worried about my sister, and knew that this *aswang* was after the child inside her belly. Tsk, tsk, she made cutting sounds with the scissors and tried to scare the creature away! 'I'll cut your tongue if you don't leave,' my mother threatened! Then she heard what seemed like the sound of wings flapping—then the sound receded to silence and peace."

At that same time my *yaya* told me this tale, she "heard" a *tiktik* outside of my room. We had a brownout then, and I was going to bed early. Outside my window was an empty lot covered with trees and tall grass. Who wouldn't believe her? It couldn't be a human sound, the street was a few yards away. While I hugged her tightly, with all these scary thoughts filling my head, I shouted, "Away!" And away did the sound go. I still swear, up to this day, that there was really an *aswang* outside my window.

My *yaya* left when I was around 10 years old. (Okay, you can laugh now.) But I had already graduated from her storytelling then. I belonged to the hip crowd in my village and school. It was my turn to tell stories, just like what she did to me during brownouts and boring Octobers.

Funny how only a few notice that the most creative minds that really teach you to fly are just right beside you fixing your meals. My *yaya* never complained whenever I asked her to tell me just one last story for the night, or even repeat one of my favorites. Everyone just ignores real life horror stories, even my *yaya*.

Act 2:

Boys never fail to annoy mothers. Still, my *yaya*'s mother is in this story. But this time the brother becomes the center of the story.

"It was still early," my *yaya* started her story, "during one summer dusk when my brother stayed late in a friend's house a few meters away from ours." (This, I just realized, is how a meter makes such a big difference.) Her mother used to scold them about staying too late in other people's houses. No one should be out of her/his house around dinnertime, certainly not a young boy like her brother then. But at last he walked home, still early but late for dear mother's time. A few meters away from their house, he felt something big behind him. There it was, a winged creature in all its glory, about to devour him. Perfect, it was suppertime, and both of them had to grab something to eat.

My *yaya* had a very detailed account of how his brother ran. It was something like—"he never ran as fast as this in his entire life"—but better. When I heard the story, I felt as if I was running beside her brother, all cold and shaky. And yes, he survived this one.

Growing up in the suburbs, I didn't think how miserable a *yaya*'s life could be. I thought then that having regular chats with my *yaya* could ease the petty salary she earned. My *yaya* got married just last year, and it will haunt me forever knowing that she sacrificed most of her lifetime for me and my family.

Before she left, she gave me a letter (still kept in "My Littlest Petshop") and two crisp P20 bills. After she left I cried for a month. I still cry whenever I read her letter and see one of the P20 bills (I had spent the other). Before, the money was just a friendly gift for all the times we had shared. Now it was a priceless memory of how cruel life is for people like my *yaya*. It serves as a reminder of how lame we are as reality-makers.

And during those years, my *yaya* never got what she deserved. Never a decent raise in salary, cherished freedom, or a regular *kilig* love life. She raised us, stuck-up spoiled brats, while my parents worked. She got endless nagging, most of the time losing voice from scolding us siblings. She got all these horrible real-life tales. But she never cared. She just went on telling me these great stories. This is why I believed and will continue to believe them forever. She didn't care about her own scary story, just plainly shared her experiences from the province. Besides getting all those years of affection and values and wisdom from her, I bargained something hard to get nowadays: a free-flying, limitless imagination.

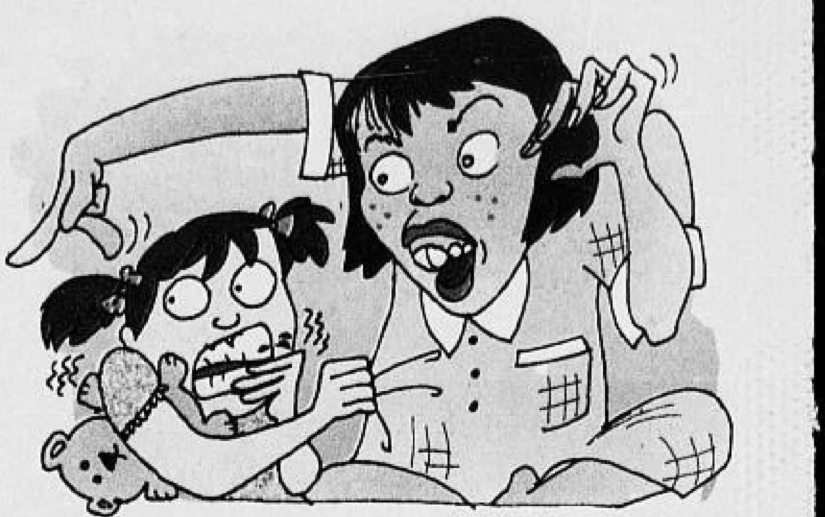
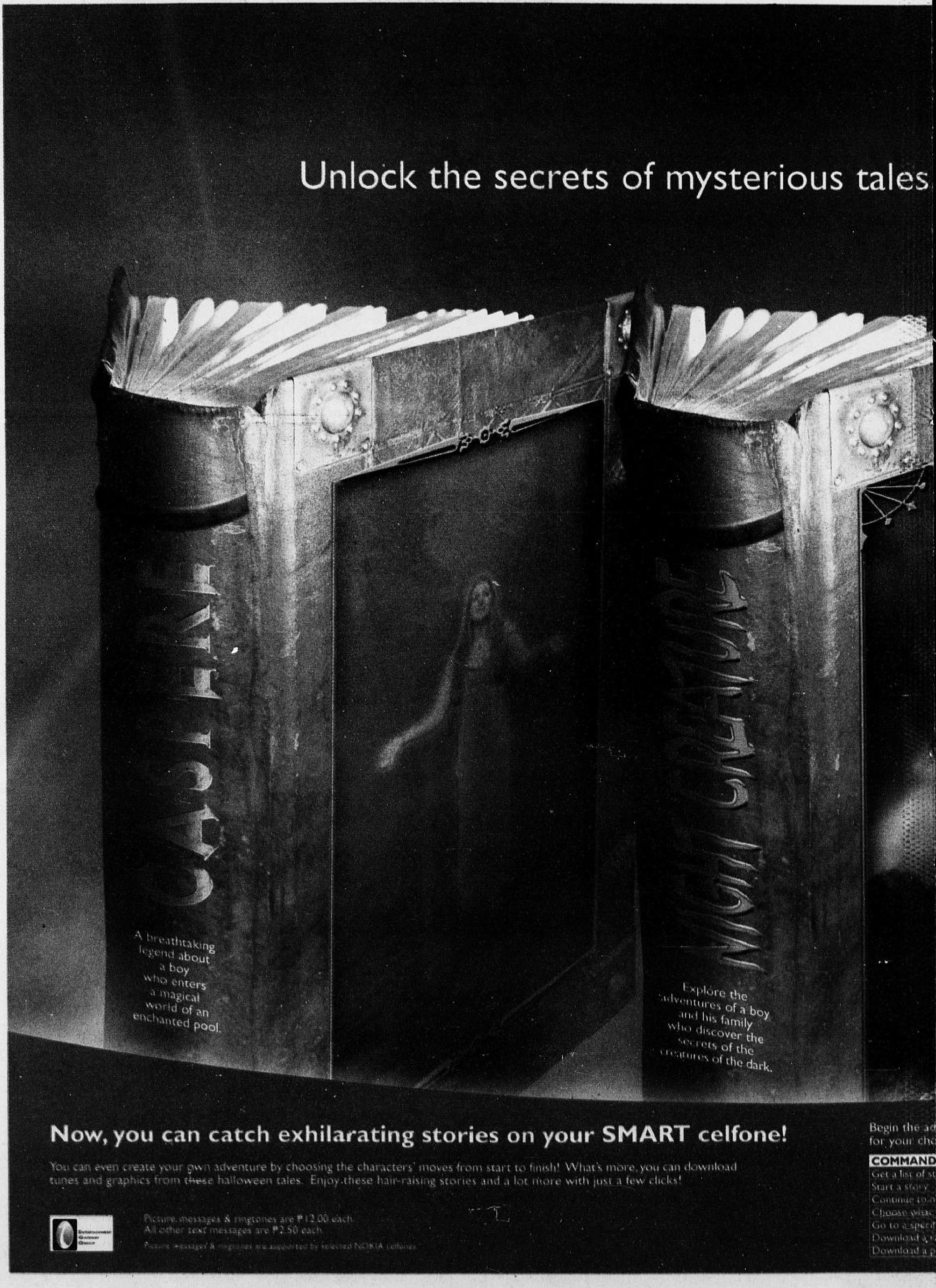


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

E-mail the author at raya@info.com.ph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Some lame Halloween websites

BY GARY MERCADO

NOW that I have your attention, let me explain. Okay, I know the Internet is where it's at, possibly the answer to end hunger and bring world peace and all that. But as far as scaring someone is concerned, suffice it to say that traditional media like books and movies still rule.

Maybe it's because the Net can be slow and the experience is less "rich" than actors in a movie set. In any case, I give it my best shot and come up with sites that make marginal attempts at horror and just plain pathetic ones.

Now although there's a rating, most of these sites are cheesy, if only because they're trying to scare you. Unless you're afraid of your own shadow, you're not going to be afraid. Let me share my list.

> The Net is not entirely a highway of horrors. But a few sites do deliver the chills

Anomalies (http://www.sonic.net/~anomaly/index.htm) is your source of strange stories for retelling during dark, stormy nights when the lights go out all of a sudden. Want to hear about the "Alma and Yeti: Wildmen of Asia"? Or how about the famous "Roswell Incident," or the "Green Children of Banjos"? Or how about those strange sand tracks on the beach which were considered "The Devil's Footprints"? Read on.

Fright.com. Heavy flash intro, but worth it when it finally loads. This site has it all, with five-minute real-player movies, games, stories, comics, movie reviews and a contest.

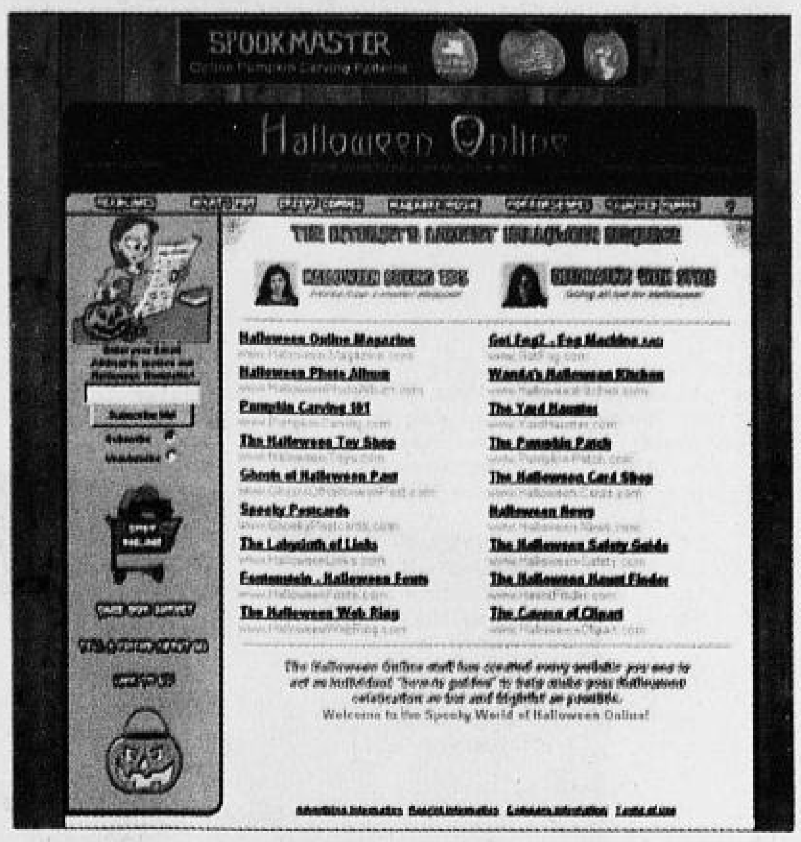
Check out the Gonzo comics, featuring some rather cool illustrations and interesting stories. The illustrator dishes out gore in heaps, but that's to be expected; it makes up for whatever the story loses by being told on the Net. Also if you're seriously into scary films, check out the movie reviews, which include movies made as far back as the '60s. This winner of "The Too Cool Award" and "Geocities' Movie Mumblings Wondrous Page Award," gets my vote for really trying. Hard. Another plus is the lack of ads anywhere on the site.

Igor's Fright Shack (http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Vault/9012/) Site description: "A piercing moon hangs in the still of night... giving the ground before you an ominous look...a gate creaks in the distance...the stench of death lingers about you. You have stumbled upon an evil place. welcome to Igor's Fright Shack..."

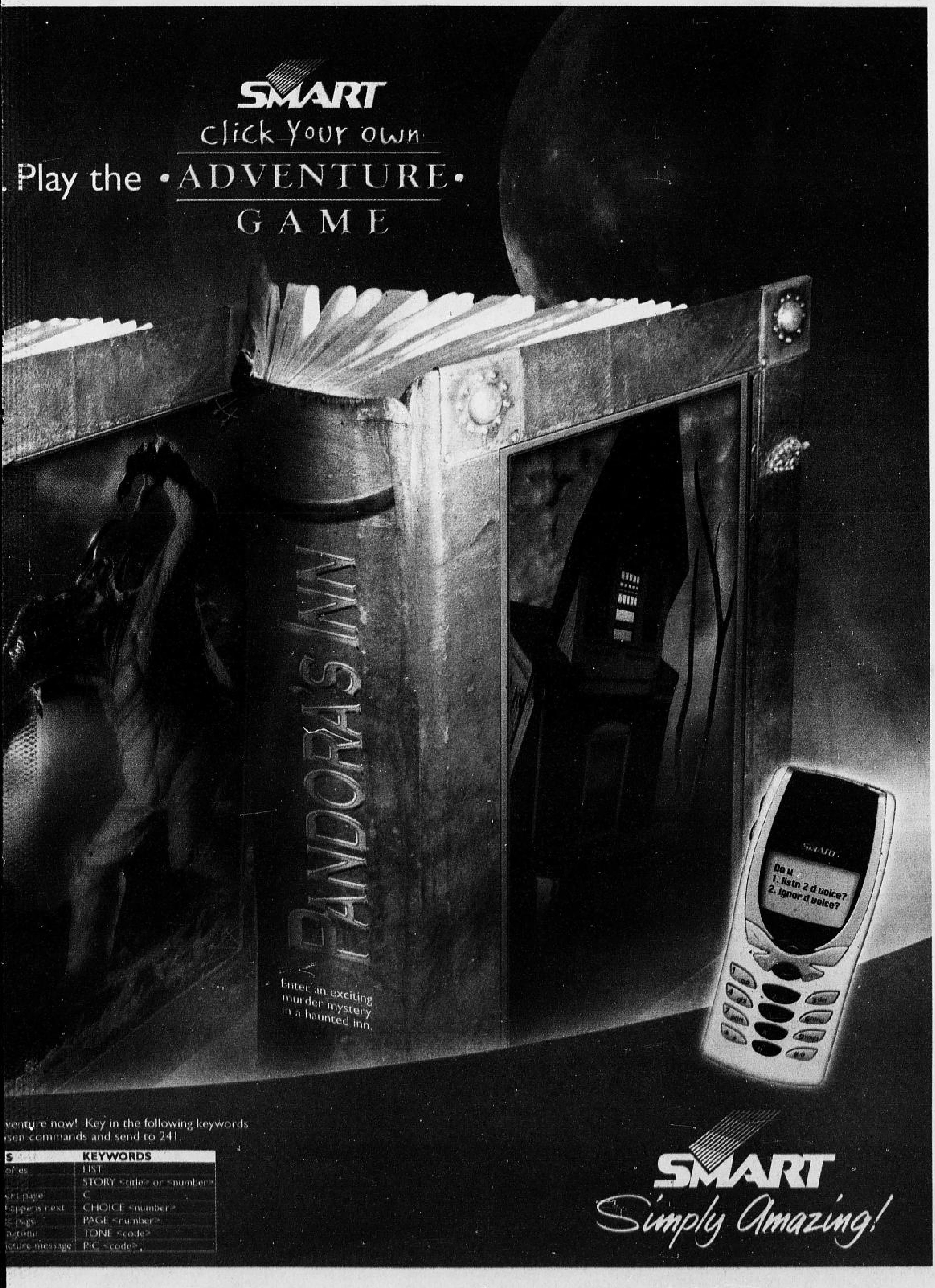
Scared already? No? Well, so am I. This is a site promoting haunted houses and other "attractions" in the US. Nice music, though.

Kimelizabeth.com. From the site: "This is the official Kim Elizabeth website honoring award-winning acclaimed author and poet, Kim Elizabeth, christened by the press as the "Princess of Horror." Well, whoever she is, she sure can make a long, drawn-out site. The pictures are, however, genuinely creepy.

Her story moves along as you click pic after colorless pic, with no narration, until you start noticing some small details. This starts you on a clicking rampage, until you reach a point where she just has to start selling her books at you. Aww, and I was starting to have fun.


SPOOKMASTER
Online Pumpkin Carving Patterns
Halloween Online
Halloween Online Magazine
Halloween Photo Album
Pumpkin Carving 101
The Halloween Toy Shop
Ghosts of Halloween Past
Spooky Postcards
The Labyrinth of Links
Fontenstein - Halloween Fonts
The Halloween Web Ring
Got Fog? - Fog Machine
Wanda's Halloween Kitchen
The Yard Haunter
The Pumpkin Patch
The Halloween Card Shop
Halloween News
The Halloween Safety Guide
The Halloween Haunt Finder
The Cavern of Clipart

Welcome to the Spooky World of Halloween Online!


SMART
click your own
Play the ADVENTURE GAME
PANDORA'S INN
Enter an exciting murder mystery in a haunted inn.
Do u
1. listn 2 d voice?
2. ignor d voice?
SMART
Simply Amazing!

venture now! Key in the following keywords
sen commands and send to 241.

S	KEYWORDS
ories	LIST
	STORY <title> or <number>
xt page	C
happens next	CHOICE <number>
c page	PAGE <number>
ngtone	TONE <code>
cture message	PIC <code>

Frightnight.org. If comics on the Net is your thing, then this site's for you. The site began in 1999 as a collaborative effort among creators of digital comics distributed on the Web. Over 35 artists combined their talents to create seven comic strip stories for Halloween. Again the site had me clicking away from link to link.

Allhallowseve.com. This is a site for kids, where they can learn gruesome makeup hints, download ghoulish music, create jack o'lanterns and other cool stuff. Well made and laid out, this is for the parent looking to spice things up for the little tyke.

Witches

Witchvox.com. This one's actually interesting for those who've always wanted to learn about becoming a witch (although I know a few who don't really have to try). They can check out this site for "Pagan Passages," "Pagan News" and other such goodies. The site goes, "It is our belief that witches are givers and healers! By keeping abreast of the latest news and updated information, as well as having ready access to critical resource tools we, as witches and pagans, cannot only empower ourselves, but develop programs to educate our local towns and cities on who we are and what we do." Nuff said.

Lamest site of them all: **Halloween.com.** This site has got to have the most hits, if only because it has the best domain name of all. However, that's all there is to it. Some of the links lead to dead sites, and others lead to places I suspect one shouldn't really go to.

Halloween-online.com. This is what's supposed to be at Halloween.com. A complete "Halloween portal," it sends you to all related Halloween details, from fog machines to pumpkin carving and even Halloween fonts. This one's got everything. They should probably hook up with the owner of Halloween.com and talk.

Special mention: **Requiemforadream.com.** A really scary site. Actually a site to promote the movie of the same name. This webby winner (film) gets top marks for truly capturing the eerie sadness of the story, which is about drug addiction and the deep sadness and desperation addicts go through. It may not be about vampires and goblins, but it can sure make you have bad dreams—or at least want to see the movie.

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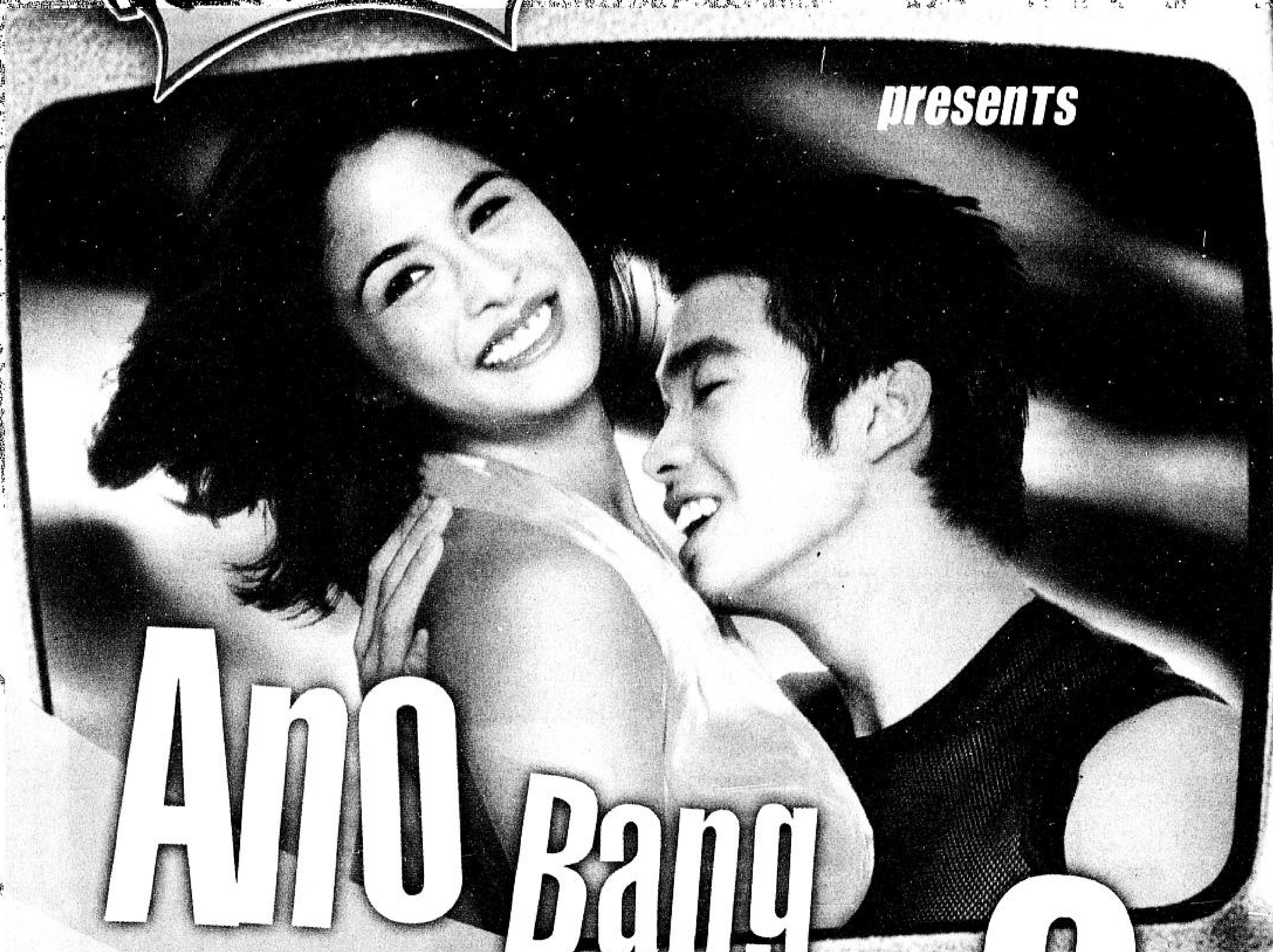
presents



Ano Bang Meron Ka?

Trivia quiz

Baka ikaw na ang susunod!

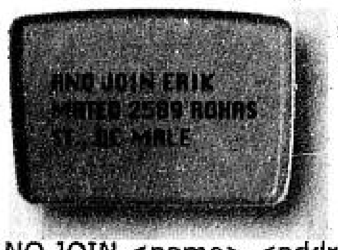
join the trivia quiz and be one of the 4 lucky winners to win a cameo appearance in joyce's next movie!

The silver screen sizzles with Ano Bang Meron Ka -- the hot new movie starring Joyce Jimenez and Diether Ocampo. Kung kilala mo talaga silang dalawa at ang kanilang latest movie, pwede mo nang makuha ang dream role mo... bilang isang artista sa next Joyce Jimenez movie!

- Just keep answering our Ano Bang Meron Ka trivia questions via your Talk 'N Text cellphone.
- You get a raffle entry for every 3 correct answers.
- You can answer up to 10 trivia questions about Joyce, Diether and the movie per day. Your points shall be accumulated throughout the promo period.
- There will be 4 lucky winners who will be given cameo roles in an upcoming movie starring Joyce Jimenez and Piolo Pascual.
- You can also win these consolation prizes:
  - 5 sets of 3 barkada passes to see the movie.
  - 10 autographed pictures of Joyce and Diether.
  - 15 autographed movie posters.

Sali na! Here's how:

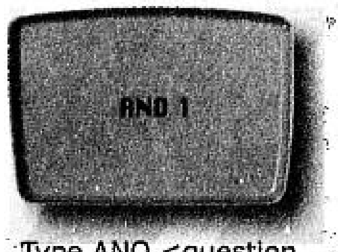
To register:



ANO JOIN ERIK
MATEO 2589 ROHAS
ST. QC MALE

Type ANO JOIN <name> <address> <male/female> and send to 288.

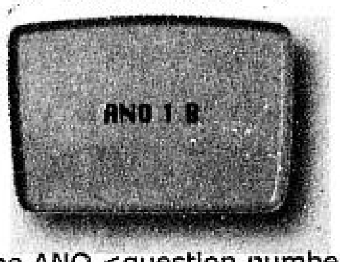
To get question:



ANO 1

Type ANO <question number> and send to 288.

To answer:



ANO 1 B

Type ANO <question number> <answer (letter only)> and send to 288.

Other keywords: ANO (for available quiz numbers), ANO ENTRY (for number of raffle entries earned), ANO RULES (for rules of the game), ANO PRIZES (for list of raffle prizes), ANO MOVIE (for updates on the movie), ANO HELP (for instructions on how to play).

* P2.50 per message sent.

ano Bang meron Ka? opens november 14 at your favorite theaters!

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Promo good from October 26 to November 26, 2001, per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3610 series of 2001.

She finds her cousin's love problems annoying

September Mahino & Carlos Garchitorena

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

What do you think makes love different from infatuation and obsession? I always hear girls who say that they're "absolutely in love" with this or that guy then after some time, they forget about him already. Or they don't pay attention to a guy for so long, then suddenly they say that he's "the most adorable person alive."

My cousin acts that way. She's driving me crazy because she tells me all about her love/infatuation/obsession life. And when I try to help her with a guy problem, she tells me that "It's not that simple." Well, she's making her own problems complicated, I think. So what can you tell me about matters of the heart that I can tell her, so that I'd get some peace from her tales?

MARY ANNE

Honestly, I think it would be better if, instead of thinking of ways to weasel out of your cousin's problems, you would put your energy into trying to be a better cousin to her. I'm not saying that being fed up with someone's troubles is bad but she is your cousin and your being her confidant is a sign of trust that shouldn't be taken too lightly. Maybe she does make her own problems complicated, but don't we all?

I don't know what to tell you about the differences between love and school-girl infatuation and mere obsession because even if I come up with something definitive, it would only be from my point of view and it wouldn't be applicable for everybody. I suggest that you use your own opinions whenever your cousin asks for your help. Not only would your advice be authentic, it would also be coming from someone who knows the person she's giving advice to.

If you think your cousin is being too immature or too dramatic in dealing with her guy problems, tell her so and explain how you would resolve these problems if they were your own. Probably, anybody who has given advice has done just that. But please remember that this is a cousin who trusts your judgment; don't be too harsh on her. And don't always think that she's the love-sick ditz who doesn't know what good counsel is when she hears one. Who knows, she might have gained an insight from her experiences that could teach you a thing or two about relating to guys. Good people know how to listen and they know when and how to be kind to the people they love. I hope you're one of them.

SEP

We have a gathering of local and foreign brilliance to make heads or tails of any given situation. To ensure the flow, the gifts of the One, and that all those beneath understanding may be blessed the same.—**Aman Anon**

In the Natural State of Complicated Women, there is a house on a twisted street. No name on the mailbox, and the doorbell rings the house down the block. When people visit this town, known for its fragrances and lush mountain ranges, people are surprised to find such disarray, confusion and mislabeling of objects, pathways and local wildlife. The four-legged beast with antlers is a chicken, seemingly because the thousand-and-eighth hen laid roost on it one day, 200 years ago. They gather water with a plow, and they share honey with the bears. There is no matter, no confusion among them, because the women all see fit the place they will inhabit.

They spend hours dressing windows, making sure the oven is exactly at 350 degrees. They cut out little paper men, paint clothes on them, and hang them on the sill to dry. 'Tis a lovely day in this State. They toil for hours, finding nits and picks, finding glorious words to play with all day. These women are beautiful when heard making silly sounds for the first time.

Other women go out more often, and claim passion in the leaf-carpet forest, while others still learn, and need no teacher nor lesson. They turn their bodies inside-down, upside-out, and play. And they learn this way.

And that is the simple order of life, in one Natural State of Complicated Women. I had a wonderful time there, and found it difficult to begin to understand and find my way around. But once you realize that parallel roads on a globe do meet, the contradictions cease to be a difficult feat. You should try it... on Tomboy Street.

CALOY

Happenings at the Carousel
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Fragrance for the 'babe' in a woman

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

WHAT'S new: Jean Paul Gaultier has done it again. Fragrance is a very subjective matter as the basis of getting one is matching it to one's body chemistry. What makes his new scent worth mentioning is, like his two previous scents Classique (woman in corset) and Le Male (tight sailor shirt in blue), the bottle is beautiful enough for any collector.

Fragile Eau de Toilette's cup is a new dome of an elegant woman in slinky black gown showered with gold glitter instead of snowflakes. She appears to be an opera singer or a famous glamour girl appearing for encores. What makes her so attractive is that at one point in our lives we wanted to be her. Having her close by serves as an inspiration and/or reminder of the "babe" in all women.

The scent: The fragrance is extracted from the tuberose flower. Another interesting point is that this is also known as *dama de noche*, a flower found in our country. It is milder than what you would expect from a Gaultier scent, but it lasts the whole day or evening. They didn't smell me coming but the ones who were close by had to have a second sniff. My other test subjects received no comments on the scent and they personally found it too strong or too mild.

* * *

My toenails and fingernails are so tiny that so much flesh shows at the tips. I would love to put French manicure on both but they look so childlike and trying-hard. Is there a remedy for making the nail itself grow longer? People look at my hands and feet with distaste because they think I'm a 27-year-old nail-biter.

CLAWLESS

Go ahead and have the French manicure, as you are perfectly capable of carrying it off. All you have to do is grow your nails till the desired length—just past the tip of the finger. Instead of using the usual sheer beige in two coats, your problem, I'm sure, is that the whites show through. Add an additional coat after each layer dries or search for a flesh-toned polish to completely cover and just have the upper-half part of the tips painted. This will give the illusion of "bigger nail growth space." There is no way you can make the attached nail area bigger; you only have illusion to rely on.

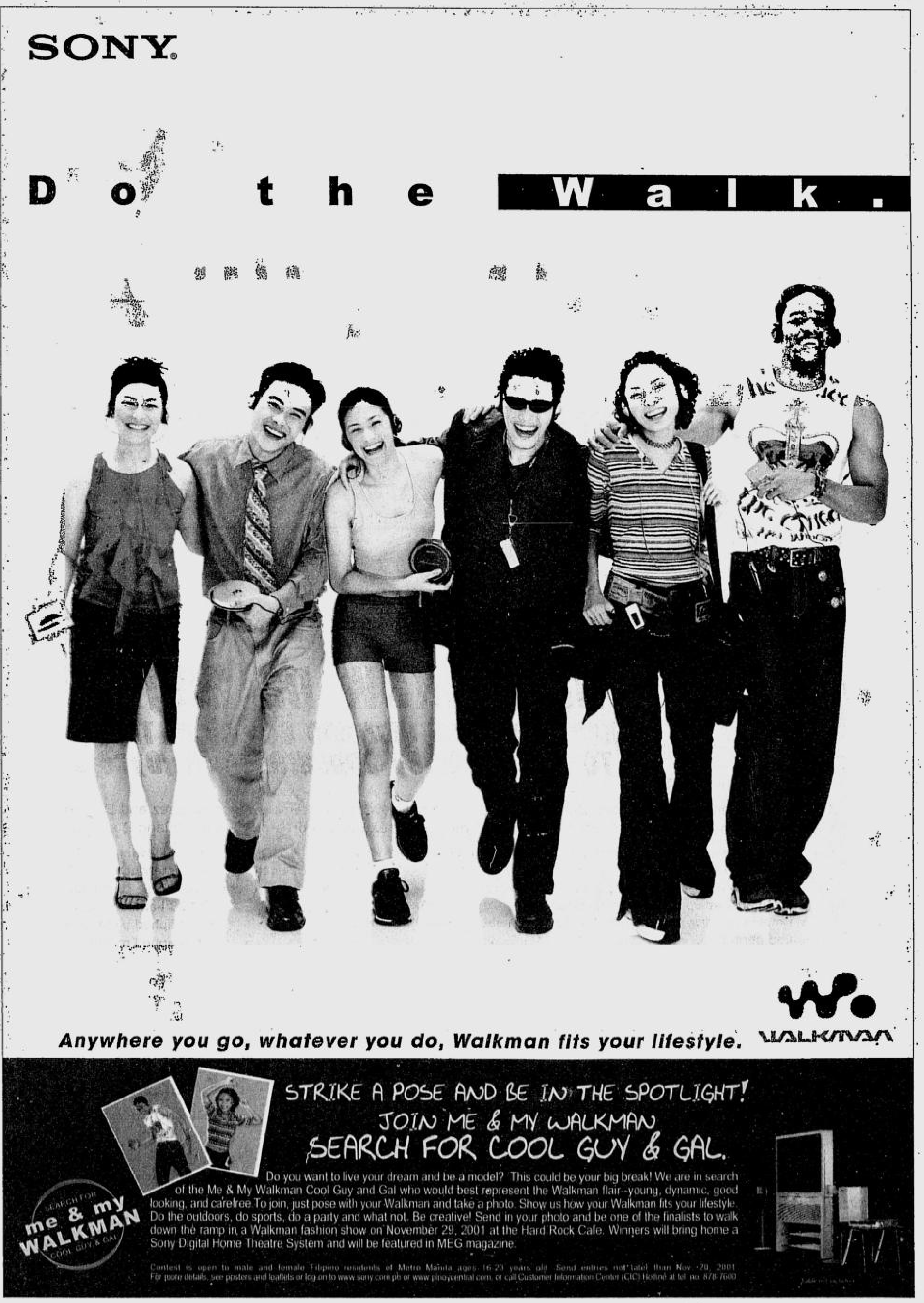
* * *

I bruise very easily and in the most inappropriate times. Usually they appear or happen on days when I have a big affair requiring formal gowns or clubwear when my legs and arms are exposed. I have an ointment to make them subside, but a lot of times there is no time to wait for them to fade. What type of concealer can I cover them with that won't fade so easily?

DOTTY GIRL

The first thing you should do is to consult a doctor or dermatologist. Why do you bruise so easily? Are you accident-prone or are you not even aware how the bruises got there? If it is the latter, you must definitely consult a doctor. For the accident-prone, invest in waterproof concealers that will blend with your skin. Yellow tones cover blue/purple tinges well. Brands to check out are O'Leary, Covermark and Body Shop.

For any questions, or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax to 897-4805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Do you want to live your dream and be a model? This could be your big break! We are in search of the Me & My Walkman Cool Guy and Gal who would best represent the Walkman flair--young, dynamic, good looking, and carefree. To join, just pose with your Walkman and take a photo. Show us how your Walkman fits your lifestyle. Do the outdoors, do sports, do a party and what not. Be creative! Send in your photo and be one of the finalists to walk down the ramp in a Walkman fashion show on November 29, 2001 at the Hard Rock Cafe. Winners will bring home a Sony Digital Home Theatre System and will be featured in MEG magazine.

Contest is open to male and female Filipino residents of Metro Manila ages 16-23 years old. Send entries not later than Nov. 20, 2001. For more details, see posters and leaflets or log on to www.sony.com.ph or www.pinoycentral.com, or call Customer Information Center (CIC) Hotline at tel. no. 878-7600

Do you know why you do what you do on Halloween?

BY MAUI V. REYES

"TRICK or treat, give us something good to eat!"

You might have gotten used to collecting tons of candy or dressing up as the Wicked Witch of the West, but have you ever wondered why you were doing it? Do you know why you are drowning in M&M's or why some freaks dance naked under the moon around this time of the year?

Exercise your brain a little and learn some Halloween Trivia.

- Halloween could have evolved from an ancient holiday called "All Hallow's Eve." In ancient times, it was believed that on this day of the year, hell opened its gates and allowed spirits to walk the earth. Another possible origin of Halloween is an old pagan celebration called "Samhian," which meant "summer's end." For the occasion, the pagans supposedly sacrificed animals—even humans—to the spirit world to ensure a good crop for the year.
- Cat lovers are likely to be upset, but when the Black Plague hit Europe, people pointed to the felines, which were believed to be witches, as the source of the deadly infection. Cats were captured, caged and burned. Ironically, the death of the cats left more rats, the real plague carriers, running around.
- Got Samhainophobia? Then you fear Halloween. Wiccaphobia, on the other hand, is the fear of witches and witchcraft, and phasmophobia is the fear of ghosts.
- When Edward III succeeded King Edward II, the latter was sent to Berkeley Castle where he was to be imprisoned. The instructions were the former king was not to be harmed so those who plotted to murder him had to make sure they left no mark left on his body. A deer horn with a red hot poker inside was supposedly inserted into his rectum. Legend has it you can still hear his screams echoing in the castle.
- Behind the masks—or rather the wearing of them—on Halloween is an interesting story. The ancient Celts thought wearing masks would confuse the spirits that walked the earth on Oct. 31.
- Wondered how "trick or treating" started? After the Irish "chased" roaming ghosts away on Oct. 31, they decided to have a feast to honor the Lord of the Dead. They would knock on every door looking for food and wood for the feast. Those who contributed were blessed, while those who did not were cursed.
- The Irish started another tradition. In the old days, they carved turnips and put candles in them supposedly to drive away unwanted spirits. When the Irish migrated to the United States between 1845 and 1850, they discovered pumpkins and started using them instead of turnips.
- As for the name "jack-o-lanterns"? The Irish apparently got the name from a poisonous mushroom called "the jack-o-lantern," which was bright orange in color and seemed to glow in the dark when it rained.
- Know what a "dumb supper" is? It refers to setting an extra place for no one on the dinner table and eating your supper in silence in honor of the dead.

> It was believed that on All Hallow's Eve, hell opened its gates and allowed spirits to walk the earth

SIEMENS

Celebrate the rush hour

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SIEMENS
S45
2001.08.28 10:30
GPRS Menu
SIEMENS

S45

Actual Size

The S45 with high quality speakerphone (handsfree) and GPRS for faster data access.

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*network dependent

Enjoy the weather

SIEMENS
ME45
28.08.2001 10:30
Menu
SIEMENS

ME45

Actual Size

The ME45: All-weather resistant.

- High quality speakerphone (handsfree)
- OverThe Air (OTA) downloading of ringer melodies, logos and screensavers*
- Enhanced Messaging Service (EMS): Send/receive pictures and melodies
- GPRS for faster data access
- Improved water, dust and shock resistance compared to conventional phones
- Full featured address book (500 contact names with 14 entries each)
- Extended organizer (appointments, notes, task lists)
- Microsoft Outlook® synchronization
- Flexible memory allocation
- Mobile Internet access (WAP 1.2)
- One touch silent and keypad lock

*network dependent

1 dose

+ 2 applications a day

12 hours relief from clogged nose

15 mL
OXYMETAZOLINE HYDROCHLORIDE
DRIXINE* 0.05%
NASAL DECONGESTANT
NASAL SPRAY
Schering-Plough Corporation
Schering-Plough
OXYMETAZOLINE HYDROCHLORIDE
DRIXINE* 0.05%
NASAL SPRAY DECONGESTANT
15 mL

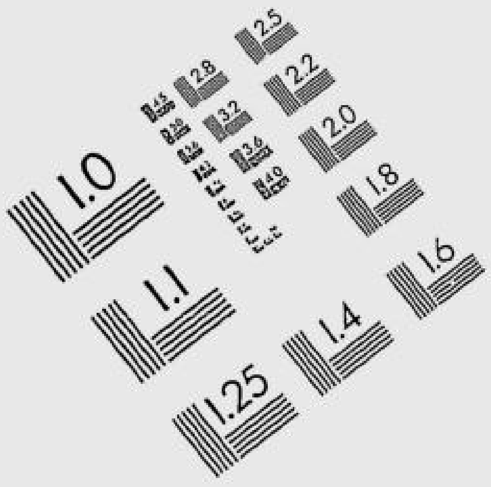
Drixine gives you the right formula that costs lesser in the long run. The only miscalculation you can make is to use a cheaper brand that gives shorter relief.

OXYMETAZOLINE
HYDROCHLORIDE
DRIXINE
The solution for longer relief

Schering-Plough Corporation A Leader In Allergy And Dermatology

Use for a maximum of one week. If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)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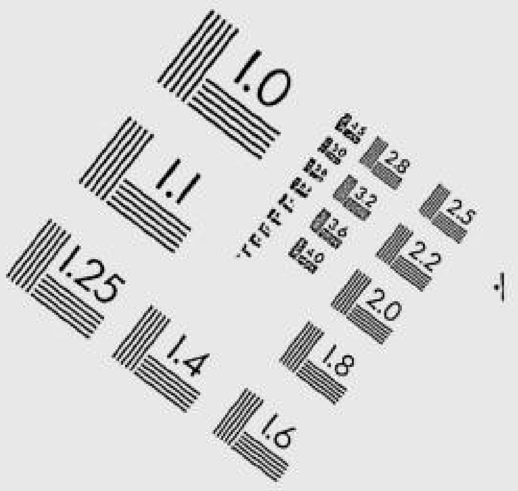
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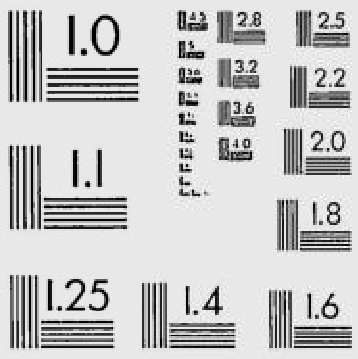
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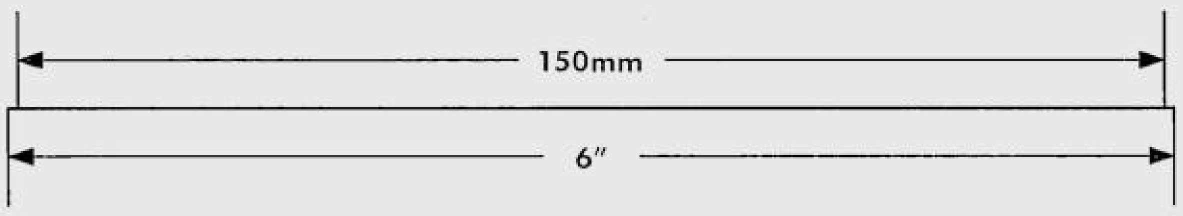

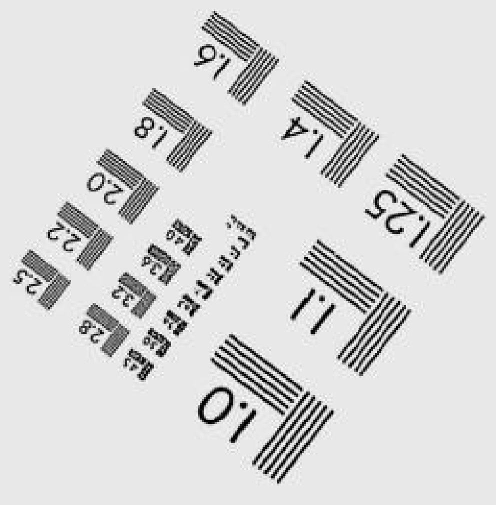
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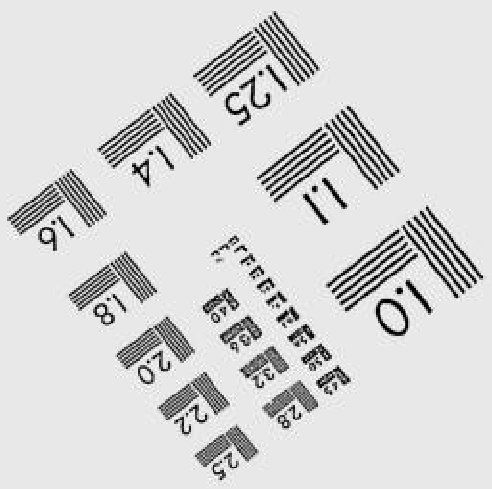
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END

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METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

SEPTEMBER
1 THRU 15
2001

REEL 268

IMAGE EVALUATION
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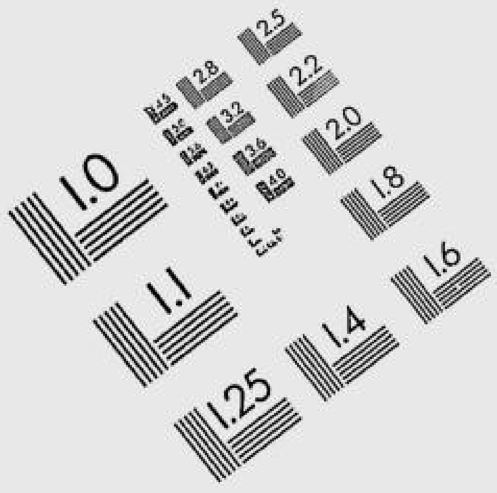
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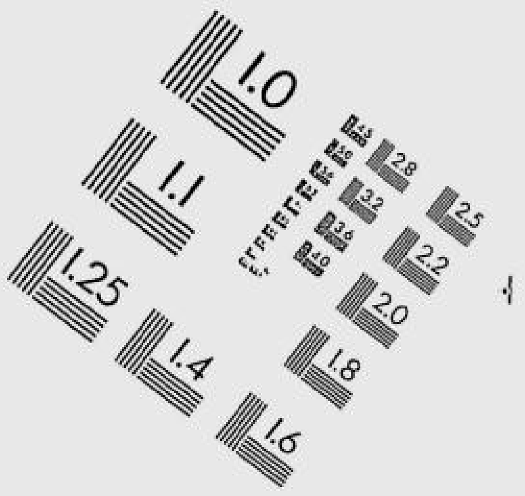
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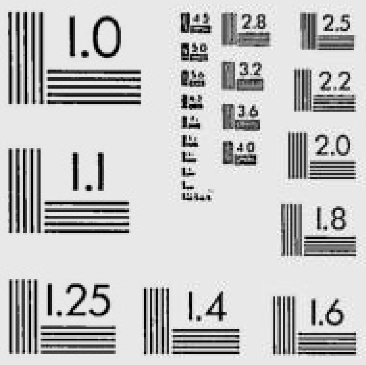
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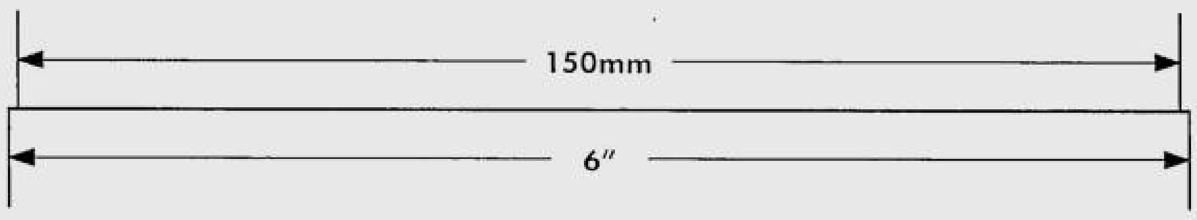

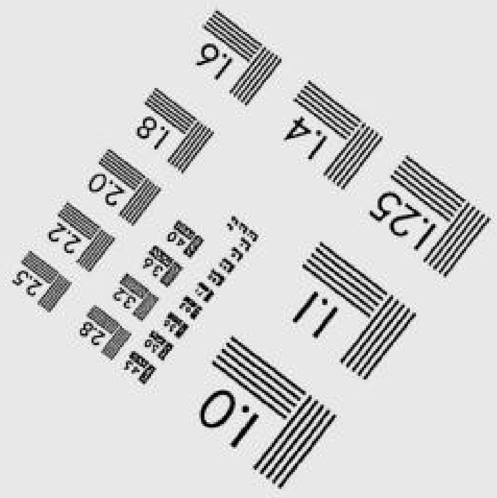
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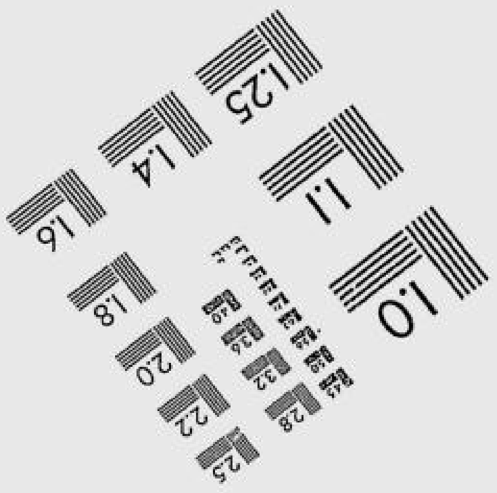
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